

Hafa Adai!

CNMI musicians invited to Battle of the Bands song contest. **PAGE 5**
Saipan eagles clubs net \$5K donations for Rota. **PAGE 6**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 117

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Chamber: In-person interview waiver for CW-1 visas in place

The CW-1 visa, which is the work visa for foreign workers in the CNMI, is already on the list of non-immigrant visas that are eligible for a waiver of in-person interviews.

That's according to Delegate Gregorio Kili Sablan (D-MP), in response to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce request for his assistance in having the CW-1 visa included on the list of visas eligible for the in-person interview waiver.

According to an SCC news release yesterday, Sablan immediately contacted the Department of State upon receiving the Chamber's letter and has confirmed that the CW-1 visa is already included in the interview waiver.

See **CHAMBER** on Page 4

Inos: Enact law sparing Judiciary from CUC disconnection



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice Perry B. Inos is urging the Legislature to consider enacting a law that removes the option for the Commonwealth Utilities

Corp. to disconnect utility services to the Judiciary.

Speaking at the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing for the proposed 2024 budget for the Judiciary, Inos said many government agencies

See **INOS** on Page 4

CW-1 survey data needed to fill gaps in CNMI workforce

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With an impending temporary loss of what's expected to be a large chunk of the CNMI's workforce, the CNMI Department of Labor is urging the business community to take part in its ongoing CW-1

survey that's meant to measure the impact of the looming

See **WORK-FORCE** on Page 4



Staffler

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

108



Cases of check fraud escalate dramatically

» **Americans warned not to mail checks if possible**

By **KEN SWEET**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Check fraud is back in a big way,

fueled by a rise in organized crime that is forcing small businesses and individuals to take additional safety mea-

See **CASES** on Page 4

ROTA BOUND

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bucket truck was loaded yesterday onto a barge bound for Rota through the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and organized by the Mawar Disaster Coordinator and Office of the Governor Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Franklin R. Babauta. The bucket truck will be used for continuing power restoration efforts on Rota. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act will take effect in the CNMI starting on June 27.

PAGE 11



NATION

Donald Trump was set to make his first court appearance Tuesday in a historic criminal case.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Pat Sajak has announced that the new season of "Wheel of Fortune" will be his last as host.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



CELEBRATE Father's Day AT THE TERRACE

Our special Father's Day buffet will give you a true FEAST for FATHERS! Satisfy your family's taste buds with:

- Smoked BBQ carving station of delicious meats and fish
- Sushi and sashimi station
- Seafood on ice
- Unlimited Asahi draft beer, white and red wine, sparkling wine, and rose wine
- Desserts and MORE to enjoy!

Father's Day, JUNE 18
11:00 am to 2:00 pm

\$65.00 | **\$25.00**
adult | child (ages 4-11)

Local Residents enjoy 15% discount

Scan QR code for reservations



The Terrace
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan
For reservations, call: 670 234 6412 | Website: saipan.crowneplaza.com

Local

Start of Resiliency Center project eyed by next year

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Norita

Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita said yesterday that they experienced some delays with the project to build the Economic Resiliency Center on Capital Hill, but are hoping that construction will start next year.

Norita discussed the project as she shared highlights on some of Finance's projects during the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee's hearing on the proposed 2024 budget for Finance.

"We are nearly 30% complete in our A&E [architectural and engineering] design. We experienced some delays because of the projected costs of the initial design that was requested," she said.

Norita said they're back at 30%, but they are looking to have at least 80% done by November and hopefully start construction by next year.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration awarded Finance \$19.6 million in August 2021 for the con-

struction of a new Economic Resiliency Center that's needed to ensure continuity of government operations and support business growth. The EDA grant is expected to create 1,500 jobs.

It was earlier reported that the award was intended to help CNMI build back from the damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

Norita also disclosed that the Office of Insular Affairs recently awarded Finance \$1.4 million for single audit and financial manager management activities.

She said this was a resource request that they asked OIA for some assistance. Included in that request was funding for forensic auditing and for professional services to help them catch up with their audit because they are two years behind.

"So we are very grateful [to] our federal partners in acknowledging just how much work the Department of Finance needs and supports," she said.

See **START** on Page 4

TOYOTA SUMMER

2023 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

GET UP TO

\$2,000*

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

5 YEARS

FREE SERVICE*

WITH ANY TOYOTA

*ON APPROVED CREDIT. CONDITIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. VEHICLE NOT EXACTLY AS SHOWN.



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950



SCAN TO VIEW INVENTORY.
GET PRE-APPROVED AND
SEE PAYMENT OPTIONS.

(670) 234-5911
SHOP ONLINE AT **AKSAIPAN.COM**

OAG: Debate is not necessary

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division doesn't think a debate with

those who oppose the proposed Bail Reform Act is necessary.

OAG Criminal Division Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds concedes that the issue is an important one. "I think

Camacho earns degree from Hollins

ROANOKE, VA—De Faustina Camacho of Saipan received the BS in Psychology during Hollins University's 181st commencement ceremony last May 21, 2023.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate liberal arts education for women and selected graduate programs for women and men. The university features 29 undergraduate majors and 15 coed graduate and cer-

tificate programs. Hollins is also home to a nationally recognized creative writing program; the innovative Batten Leadership Institute; and the Rutherford Center for Experiential Learning, which encompasses study abroad at an array of destinations around the world, domestic and international internships with top tier businesses and organizations, and undergraduate research opportunities in a range of fields. (PR)

this is an important issue and a discussion is good, but as far as getting into a debate, I don't think that is necessary," he said.

Hinds recently issued a statement supporting the bill, stating it is a vital piece of legislation that would help victims of violent repeat offenders feel safe.

CNMI Public Defender Douglas Hartig, who is strongly opposed to the bill, said he would be open to a debate on

the matter if he is invited to one. "I wouldn't rule out a debate," he said.

Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), who authored the proposed Bail Reform Act and chairs the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, earlier proposed a debate among those who oppose and those who support her proposed bill, which is named after Keisha King, a woman who was taken hostage and shot dead in 2019 by repeat offender Gordon Castro.

The Office of the Public Defender and 17 other private lawyers have openly opposed the passage of the

bill, claiming that it not only takes away a judge's discretion when it comes to granting or denying bail, but it could also be unconstitutional as they believe it takes away a person's right to bail.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, Flores' bill restricts the right to bail, imposes stricter conditions for release, and applies stronger enforcement of bail conditions. It ostensibly seeks to ensure that defendants in criminal cases show up in court, while at the same time improving protection of the public and victims of crime.

Under the bill, a person arrested for a felony offense may be released on reason-

able bail by any judge, provided that the prosecutor is given reasonable opportunity to be heard before any application for bail is granted.

No person shall be released on bail for an offense committed while released on bail or after arrest for violation of a condition of probation that includes an allegation of a new offense. The bill also provides several other bail conditions.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CUC closed on June 19, 2023

In observance of Juneteenth, the offices and Customer Service Center of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be closed on Monday, June 19, 2023. For more information, contact the CUC automated hotline at (670) 236-4333 or visit www.cucgov.org and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For questions or concerns contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. (PR)

Free webinars on gov't contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars on federal contracting this month. Webinars are held every Thursday from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom links are emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the webinar.

■ June 15, 2023 – SAM – Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in federal contracting. The Guam PTAC will take you through the new Entity Validation process, the actual SAM registration, and follow-up requirements. We will also discuss the new annual renewal process.

■ June 22, 2023 – Responding to RFPs – The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

■ June 29, 2023 – Gov-Guam Procurement – The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

Register on our website: <https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php> (PR)

2023 SUMMER EXPERIENCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HOSTED BY Junior State of America Northern Marianas College

Scholarships Available!

Civics Institute Micronesia

Designed to challenge students to focus on solution-oriented actions to the issues that America and the world faces today.

Saipan | June 25 – July 1
Deadline: June 20, 2023

Scan here to apply now!



JSaM

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Friday, June 16, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Tinian Conference Center located in the Tinian Western Lodge in San Jose, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (April 26 and June 2, 2023)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):

1. Resolution 2023-02: Renaming of the Tinian International Airport to Francisco M. Borja International Airport

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. See link below.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

June 09, 2023

Receiver wants commission paid

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The court-appointed company that's handling the receivership of Imperial

Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has asked the federal court to authorize the payment of its commission for the most recent auction of the casino investor's gaming equipment.

Michael White, the lawyer for Clear Management Ltd., has filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the NMI, asking the court to authorize the payment of \$21,056.20

in commissions following the conclusion of the fourth auction of IPI's gaming equipment last May.

White noted in his motion that the court approved the receiver's report and account of fourth auction in an order last May 1. The total value of the successful bids received at the fourth auction was \$225,812.

"A total of \$184,062 has been received. [However] one of the bidders, David Albanese, still has not paid \$41,750 of his purchases amounting to \$70,975," he said.

In addition, White said the receiver also sold playing cards to Angel Playing Card company and APC has since paid a deposit of \$26,500.

Adding the \$184,062 in actual

sales receipts from the fourth auction to the \$26,500 received from Angel Playing Cards, the total amount upon which a sales commission is requested is \$210,562, White said.

This means that, because Clear Management is entitled to 10% of this sum, the receiver is asking the disbursement of \$21,056.20 in commissions.

The receivership arose from the lawsuit filed by USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. against IPI for its failure to pay the full amount due to the plaintiff under their construction contract for labor and materials provided for the improvement of IPI's real property in Garapan.

The judge issued a final judgment in favor of USA Fanter.

CASES

From Page 1

tures or to avoid sending checks through the mail altogether.

Banks issued roughly 680,000 reports of check fraud to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, last year. That's up from 350,000 reports in 2021. Meanwhile the U.S. Postal Inspection Service reported roughly 300,000 complaints of mail theft in 2021, more than double the prior year's total.

Early in the pandemic, government relief checks became an attractive target for criminals. The

problem has only gotten worse and postal authorities and bank officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible, or at least to use a secure mail drop such as inside the post office. Meanwhile, as the cases of fraud increase, victims are waiting longer to recover their stolen money.

Check usage has been in decline for decades as Americans have largely switched to paying for their services with credit and debit cards. Americans wrote roughly 3.4 billion checks in 2022, down from nearly 19 billion checks in 1990, according to the Federal Reserve. However, the average size of the checks Americans write rose from

\$673 in 1990—or \$1,602 in today's dollars—to \$2,652 last year.

"Despite the declining use of checks in the United States, criminals have been increasingly targeting the U.S. Mail since the COVID-19 pandemic to commit check fraud," FinCEN wrote in an alert sent out in February.

Checks are still frequently used by small businesses. Eric Fischgrund, who runs FischTank PR, a 30-person public relations firm in New York, had about 15 checks that were being mailed to him from clients stolen after they all went through the same Postal Service distribution center. Ten of them were successfully cashed by criminals.

INOS

From Page 1

can still provide services even if their electricity is disconnected, but it's a different story with the Judiciary.

"In reality, a disconnection to Guma' Hustisia...means that the third branch of the government will shut down. The entire branch, your sister branch will shut down," he said.

Last May 3, acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje sent disconnection notices to the Judiciary and several other government agencies for unpaid utility services as of March 31, 2023. Terlaje gave the Judiciary until May 18, 2023, to pay or settle the \$2.4 million in unpaid utility services to avoid power and water disconnection to Judiciary facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The disconnection did not push through after the CNMI Judiciary disputed the \$1.6 million utilities billing for the Guma' Hustisia building on Saipan.

Inos told the Ways and Means Committee Friday that they are all contained in one unit, in one building and that practically 90% of all of their work is at Guma' Hustisia.

"When CUC disconnects power, water, and sewer services, we're done. This is constitutionally unacceptable," said the associate justice, adding that this year they are asking for \$2.8 million for utilities to cover fiscal year 2024 and allow them to settle their CUC arrears.

Inos said the Judiciary's budget requests over the years have been

based on historical utilities usage, or whatever they used the previous year. According to their finance manager, John Villagomez, their average monthly use is around \$60,000, or \$720,000 a year.

Inos said the Judiciary, however, has always been underbudgeted for this particular need. "It will be a continuing saga if, again, we get something lower than \$720,000. So this is not a guesswork," Inos said.

He said they are trying to address the CUC disconnection notice. "We're really put in a bad situation because how do you address a usage deficiency in your electricity bill if we just don't have the funds?" Inos asked.

Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho told the committee that the Judiciary and the Executive Branch are still in the middle of talks on how to address the Judiciary's arrears. "But what remains is how to do we proceed in paying for utilities for our three courthouses in the CNMI?" Camacho asked.

In response to Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Camacho said they are asking for an additional \$900,000 on top of the \$300,000 to meet the \$1.2 million utilities need for fiscal year 2024. She said they are also asking for an additional \$2.7 million to cover the arrears.

"We are currently in discussion with the Executive Branch and the governor has been very helpful in this regard," Camacho said.

She said they have contested one of the amounts in the disconnection notice and that is for water and sewer

usage for the Guma' Hustisia.

Camacho said CUC has sent engineers to review the meter and some of the variables that they think are creating those amounts.

She said there was a huge spike in their monthly water and sewer charges as it jumped by 18,000% from July 2022 to the present. "So that's why there is a set-aside figure that CUC has agreed to while we look at that and see if that amount is truly owed or if there are some areas where they are considered as not owed and we will be excused from it," Camacho said.

She said, however, that based on their discussions, CUC's position is that the amount remains the same.

Camacho said this is why they asked the committee to also consider giving them the funds to pay these arrears, in addition to their annual coverage for utilities.

She said the bench members are arbiters of law and these are the very types of cases that come before them—non-payment of arrears. "So as a judicial system, when these amounts are not paid, it erodes the confidence in the system itself," she said.

Camacho said these arrears arose because they were assured by the prior administration leadership that they would be combined and paid with the central government's CUC billings under the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

"That obviously didn't happen, but the fact of the matter is that it's owed and so that's why we're asking for that supplemental amount on top of the \$900,000," Camacho said.

the interview waiver to applicants renewing a visa in the same classification within 48 months of the prior visa's expiration. This includes the CW-1 visa.

While the State Department grants non-immigrant visa interview waivers at the discretion of consular offices, they advised that CW-1 applicants should follow the same procedure as detailed for B1/B2 visa applicants, as outlined by their country-specific U.S. embassies. For example, the procedure for the Manila Embassy

can be found at: <https://ustraveldocs.com/ph/ph-niv-visarenewb1b2.asp>.

"The SCC appreciates [Sablan's] prompt response and his diligent efforts to communicate with the Department of State. The in-person interview waiver will surely assist CW-1 visa holders with a more streamlined and efficient visa renewal process, ultimately benefiting the many CNMI businesses who rely on essential transitional workers to supplement their workforce needs," the SCC news release said. *(Saipan Tribune)*

WORKFORCE

From Page 1

implementation of the "touchback" provision.

So far, as of yesterday, nearly 20 businesses have already responded to the CW-1 assessment survey, which was launched last week, according to CNMI Labor Secretary Leila Staffler.

Although she thinks the number is a good start, Staffler is urging more CNMI businesses who employ foreign workers to fill out the survey to give DOL an idea of how it can fill in the gaps in the CNMI workforce once the "touchback" provision is enforced in September.

Touchback refers to the requirement for foreign workers to leave the CNMI before their work visas could be renewed for a third consecutive time. That departure requirement also means they will have to stay away until a new permit is approved, which could take months.

"The survey is intended for any business owner who employs CWs or other visa type workers, because we're interested in understanding how many visa type workers are out there. That's information we don't actually collect. So this is our effort to communicate with businesses directly so that we can understand how this new touchback policy affects them. It will also help us see how we can improve or increase our services as a Department of Labor to help the gaps with U.S. workers, if at all possible," she said.

Staffler said DOL wants to help fill these gaps with U.S. workers so DOL encourages as many businesses as possible to take part in the survey in the next four weeks so that DOL can respond to their labor needs.

"I don't have a closing date just

yet, but any data that we collect will really help us decide what our next steps will be. I would ideally like as many responses as I can get in the next two to four weeks. It's already June. When I look at the data submissions so far, I can see that September is going to be a huge area of need because many of the renewal dates are in the month of September. That means a lot of workforce gaps will be happening in September. Knowing exactly how many [will be affected] will help us plan a job fair in August because July is next month and we need to move already," she said.

Fortunately, Staffler said, the CNMI has good training programs and facilities on island that are able to train locals to perform specific trade skills that have needed to be outsourced through foreign workers who may now have to leave due to the new touchback provision.

"We do see there's a gap with transition of workers between getting training and actually getting placed in jobs so we want to help bridge those gaps. We definitely have good systems here in the CNMI that do the training and we want to help people...get placed in jobs that would otherwise go to someone else who isn't able to stay because they have to leave," Staffler said.

Overall, Staffler said, the survey is important in balancing DOL's responsibility of enforcing laws regarding workforce preference for U.S. workers, while also collecting data that would paint a clearer picture of how much the CNMI still needs foreign workers, like those under the CW-1 visa program, to bridge the gap in its workforce.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

START

From Page 2

With respect to the Procurement Office, it was recently relocated next to the Finance secretary's Office on Capital Hill as the old Procurement Office is currently under renovation. Norita said there is a CIP contract routing for renovation of the Finance Secretary Building.

She said their FMIS, the Munis implementation, is 90% complete. "We are implementing the time and attendance or executive time for em-

ployees so that one will be going live soon," Norita said.

She said the Customs Biosecurity's online passenger declaration form project is 90% complete.

"This is for travelers coming into the CNMI. Instead of filling it out manually, this was a digitization project," the secretary said.

At the Division of Revenue and Taxation, the biggest project right now is new tax system that was funded by Office of Insular Affairs through a grant. "So that is on the table for Revenue and Tax, set to go live next year, tax year 2024, starting off with state taxes," she said.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

In its letter to Sablan, the SCC highlighted the challenges posed by the historically backlogged schedule for in-person interviews, which often result in delays and wasted visa periods.

The SCC news release stated that Sablan's response outlined that the Department of State's notice, issued on Dec. 23, 2022, which extends

CNMI musicians invited to Battle of the Bands song contest

The 2023 CNMI Liberation Day festivities will kick off on July 1, 2023, with the opening ceremony to be held at the Garapan Fishing Base and Saipan can expect to see the return of this year's Fourth of July parade and carnival grounds.

The Liberation Day Committee will be jumpstarting this year's celebration with a Battle of the Bands Song Competition, which promises to deliver some of our islands'

best local talent live on the Garapan Fishing Base stage. A panel of judges will be choosing the Liberation Day theme song from a number of songs composed by our own talented artists who will be performing live onstage at the opening ceremony on Saturday, July 1, 2023.

The competition will feature original lyrical compositions and melodies centered on this year's theme "Resil-

ency Rising," a theme that is expected to showcase our recent challenges and our islands' ability to bounce back stronger from back-to-back super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent scare with Typhoon Mawar.

A total of eight finalists will be selected from a pool of applicants to perform in front of a live audience and a panel of handpicked judges composed

of members from our local music and arts community. Interested musicians must upload a recording of themselves performing to YouTube and send the link to liberationday-song@gmail.com as part of the preliminary screening phase.

Finalists will be scored based on how well the song relates to the theme, lyrical composition, stage presence, and originality. Bands must be residing in the CNMI and may

not be made up of more than five members. Solo artists and duets are also allowed to vie for the top spot. The winning artist(s) will have their song featured in all advertisements leading up to Liberation Day 2024. Finalists will be vying for \$1,000 worth of cash and prizes, and a chance to be featured throughout Liberation Day promotions.

The Liberation Day Committee would like to especially

thank its co-sponsor for the event, Napu Brewing, which does business as Tapped Out, for supporting our local artists and joining us in giving them an opportunity to showcase their talent.

Contact the Liberation Day Committee at liberationday-song@gmail.com to receive an application or to find out more information regarding the competition. Interested applicants may also call the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208. **(PR)**

Ayuyu appointed to NMHC board

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed Vina Claire Saures Ayuyu to serve on the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board of directors, representing Saipan and the Northern Islands and the

Carolinian community

If confirmed by the Senate, Ayuyu will serve the remainder of a four-year term, which will expire on May 6, 2027.

Ayuyu is a program manager at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center.

Man pleads guilty to burglary; is sentenced to 10 years in prison

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who pleaded guilty to burglary in two separate occasions has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Johnny John Basiente, 36, pleaded guilty last week to two counts of burglary for two separate cases before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, who sentenced Basiente to 10 years in prison. However, Basiente will only be serving five years as the other five are suspended and will only be imposed if he does not comply with court-imposed conditions once he is released from prison on February 2028 (or if he is granted parole).

The judge also ordered Basiente to pay \$2,000 in restitution to QQ Car Rental; \$6,760 to Jin Koo Cho; \$2,055 to Huaying Zhang; and \$625 to Lenard Angodage—who are the victims in his two cases. Basiente was also ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000 and court costs of \$100.

Following his release from prison, Basiente will be placed on supervised probation for 10 years and must pay a probation fee of \$1,600.

In addition, Basiente will perform 200 hours of community service.

As part of his probation, Basiente was ordered to stay away from Guangzhou Res-

taurant, QQ Car Rental, Mamma's Store, Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa and New Shin Restaurant. All these establishments are located in Garapan.

As part of Basiente's plea deal, the CNMI government dropped all remaining charges against him and also agreed not to file criminal charges in other burglary cases.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the Department of Public Safety responded to a theft incident earlier this year at Guangzhou Restaurant in Garapan and later learned that the suspect in the case was repeat offender Johnny John Basiente, based on surveillance footage.

Basiente was caught inside the restaurant by individuals who were living upstairs and while trying to get away, Basiente and the owners got into a physical altercation.

The victims reportedly sustained minor injuries and Basiente left the scene in a getaway car.

On Feb. 8, 2023, police investigators found Basiente at a home in Dandan, based on the getaway car's plate number.

During a consent search of the residence, detectives recovered several stolen properties that were later identified by victims of previous burglaries.

Basiente also confessed to multiple crimes he had committed.

Last May 18, Palacios nominated Ayuyu to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of directors representing Saipan,

Northern Islands, and Carolinian community. The governor, however, later withdrew the appointment.

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon

Guerrero (D-Saipan) last June 2 that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident in Ayuyu's leadership to uphold the mandates and goals of the NMHC to further meet

the need for decent, safe, and sanitary housing for persons of low and moderate income, and provide employment opportunities through housing development in the CNMI.



Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

ADVERTISE

with us & SAVE

Expand your ad message across several channels and extend your audience reach.

670.235-NEWS (6397)

saipantribune  670.235-8747 

saipantribuneofficial  saipantribune.com 

Water service interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, June 15, 2023, from 8:30am to 12:30pm in the Papago area.

■ Area(s) affected: Customers along Papago Drive, Afuuh Place, Ghaayil Place, Monkey Pod Place, Acacia Place, and Alom Place

■ Purpose: The scheduled water outage is necessary for CUC water operators to repair a main service lateral on

Papago Drive on Capitol Hill.

■ Roadway(s) affected: None

■ For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

Customers in the area will experience low to no water pressure between 8:30am to 12:30pm. Allow one to two hours after for water to pressurize back into the main line. **(PR)**

Saipan eagles clubs net \$5K donations for Rota



The Fraternal Order of Eagles (Philippine Eagles), the Saipan Maga'lahi Eagles Club, and Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club held a drive-thru collection at the Kilili Pavilion on

Saipan last June 4, 2023, for the benefit of Rota and its people who were recently hit by Typhoon Mawar.

The collection, which was held in collaboration with the Office of the

Mayor of Rota and Office of Sen. Dennis Mendiola, received a total of \$5,000 worth of donations from partners, organizations and members of the community during our drive-thru collection.

The groups also donated 21 sacks of 50-lbs rice, noodles, coffee and canned goods and made a total of 166 care packages to distribute for the people of Rota.

More than 250 families on Rota were affected by Typhoon Mawar, leaving some parts of the island damaged and supplies of food and water is essentially needed. **(PR)**



DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN) Shell Gasoline Service Stations Has an opening for an Auditor/Accounting Staff

For established small business

- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible in monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Must have confidence working with numbers
- Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines
- Must demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
- Can work under minimum supervision.
- Can work on a fast paced environment.
- Experience with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet) and Word programs.
- Organized, honest, trustworthy and a team player.
- Great attitude.
- We will train the right person
- On island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com
and deltaspn@pticom.com

Pride Marianas hosts care fair at NMC



Pride Marianas, together with the CNMI Small Business Development Center, recently hosted a care fair at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

NMC

Pride Marianas, a community group aimed at celebrating the rich diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community in the Northern Mariana Islands, hosted the "How the Health you gonna love Yo 'Self" Care Fair at the Northern Marianas College Mango Terrace last Thursday, June 9, 2023, from 5pm to 8pm.

The community was invited to learn valuable information on holistic health and wellness concepts, specifically geared toward serving the LGBTQIA+ community. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. provided free services such as blood sugar check, HIV

testing and counseling (oral swab), hypertension screening, and sexually transmitted disease testing and counseling. The CHCC Mobile Clinic was stationed at the event where they also administered vaccination shots for COVID-19, the flu virus, and monkeypox. The following CHCC divisions were present at the event: Community Guidance Center, Non-Communicable Disease Program, STI Screening Program, Family Care Clinic, Emergency Department, and Internal Medicine.

A Zumba workout session was hosted by DJ Kaz from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

The event also highlighted CNMI Small Business Development Center Network clients that showcased their products and services, such as CamaKane Catering, Mind-2Muscle, Local Girls Lemonade, Latte Built Fitness & Nutrition, LLC, and Relax & Paint.

With June being Pride Month, this care fair was one of many Pride events that will be happening throughout the month. For more information on this and other upcoming events, follow Pride Marianas on Instagram (@pridemarianas670) and Facebook. **(NMC)**



Stakeholders' Meeting focuses on military updates

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and Indo-Pacific Command's Maj. Gen. Mark A. Hashimoto are joined by military officials, federal partners, and CNMI departments and agencies at the Grandvrio hotel in Garapan as part of the CNMI Stakeholders' Meeting.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, in his capacity as acting governor last week, met with military officials, federal partners, and CNMI departments and agencies at the Grandvrio hotel in Garapan as part of the

CNMI Stakeholders' Meeting, which was conducted by Indo-Pacific Command.

The CNMI Stakeholders Meeting is a recurring meeting between CNMI Stakeholders and INDOPACOM that is

held quarterly.

Among the items discussed included the 2023 CNMI Military Training Outlook, updates on the Tinian port, port calls on Saipan, the CNMI Joint Military Training meetings

held, which discussed the updated Environmental Impact Statement on Tinian, and the upcoming Innovative Readiness Training in July.

In attendance with Apatang were INDOPACOM Maj. Gen.

Mark A. Hashimoto, special assistant for Military Affairs Daniel I. Aquino, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, OIA field representative Harry C. Blanco, Cabinet officials, and partnering

departments and agencies.

Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson and U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Rear Adm. Jeffrey J. Kilian attended the meeting virtually. **(PR)**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang speaks at the CNMI Stakeholders' Meeting at the Grandvrio hotel in Garapan, as Indo-Pacific Command's Maj. Gen. Mark A. Hashimoto, right, and Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, left, listen.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Special assistant for Military Affairs Daniel I. Aquino speaks during the CNMI Stakeholders' Meeting at the Grandvrio hotel in Garapan last week.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan speaks during the CNMI Stakeholders' Meeting at the Grandvrio hotel in Garapan last week.



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP23-OPD-42300078

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 14, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL:

(<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>)

OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANO IGLECIAS
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-023

Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench And Portable Meter Test Bench

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of one (1) permanent meter test bench and one (1) portable meter test bench for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist water operation staff with CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-023, Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench and Portable Meter Test Bench" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 28, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 16, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 117Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hello there, Big Brother! Please, come right in

The Fourth Amendment protects Americans from “unreasonable searches and seizures” by the government, acknowledging the “right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects.” It is a bedrock principle of the Bill of Rights.

But a survey released this month reveals that an astonishing number of Americans, particularly younger Americans, would be comfortable throwing this fundamental protection on the ash heap of history.

The Cato Institute recently conducted a poll of 2,000 adults and included the question: “Would you favor or oppose the government installing surveillance cameras in every household to reduce domestic violence, abuse and other illegal activity?” Seventy-five percent of respondents were against such an outrageous intrusion. But 14 percent approved and 10 percent “didn’t know.”

Holy, George Orwell. But it gets worse.

Breaking down the responses, Cato discovered that a whopping 29 percent of those between the ages of 18 and 29, and 20 percent of those aged 30 to 44, gave a thumbs-up to the concept of the government putting cameras in private residences to monitor potential wrongdoing.

Perhaps this isn’t surprising, given the intolerance many younger Americans today show for the First Amendment and the concept of free speech. Those ubiquitous electronic devices have also eroded privacy expectations. Yet it’s nevertheless horrifically distressing that a significant number of those in Gen Z demonstrate such an utter lack of appreciation for individual liberty and freedom while increasingly embracing collectivism and the inevitable authoritarianism it breeds.

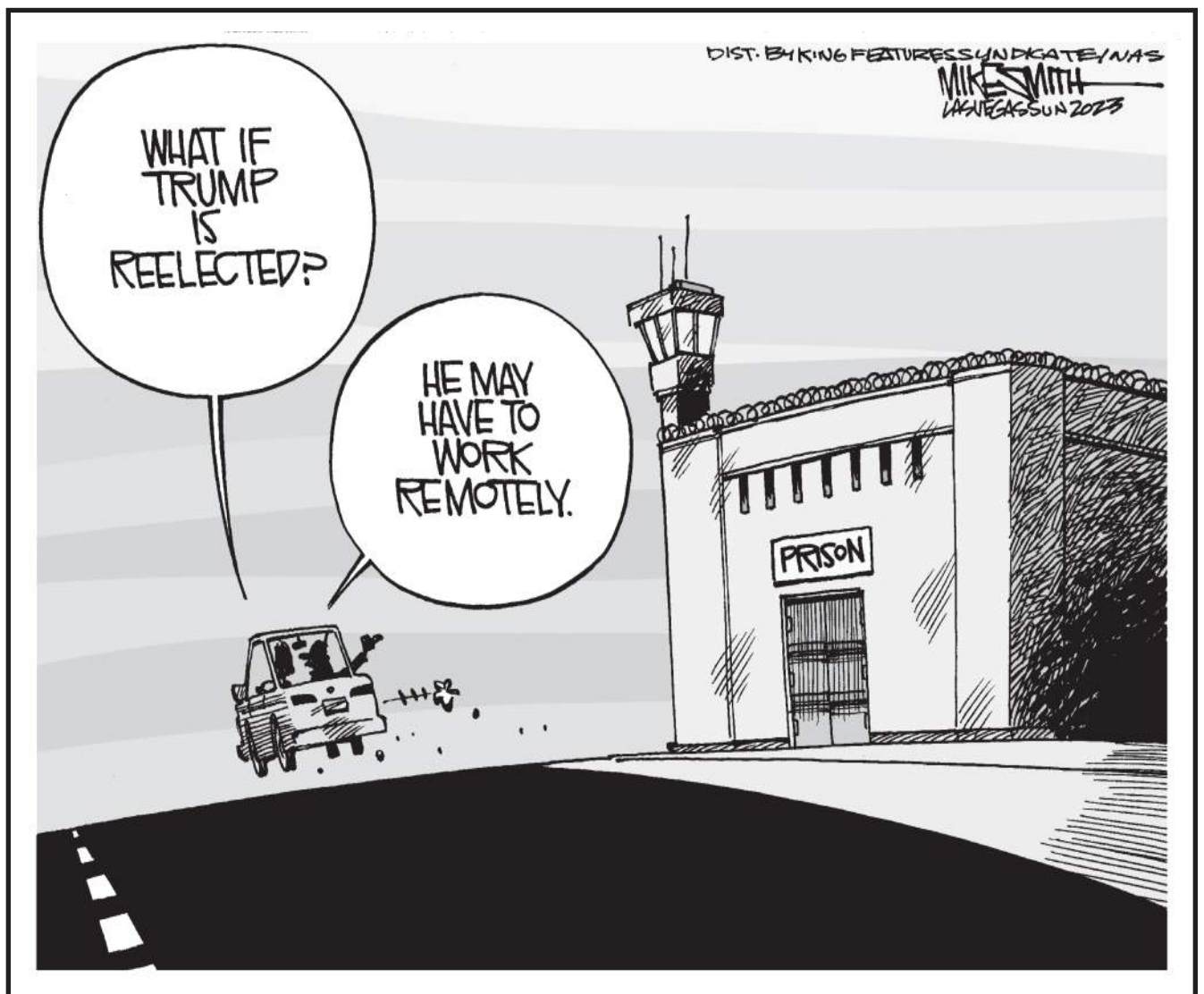
“We don’t know how much of this preference for security over privacy or freedom is something unique to this generation (a cohort effect) or simply the result of youth (age effect),” the authors of the Cato study write. “However, there is reason to think part of this is generational. Americans over age 45 have vastly different attitudes on in-home surveillance cameras than those who are younger.”

At the same time, the U.S. Department of Education announced last month that eighth grade test scores in U.S. history and civics fell to their lowest level on record in 2022. Might that help explain why so many young adults would happily escort their government overlords inside their own homes to install the surveillance cameras?

“Without explicitly telling younger generations about the risks and dangers of government surveillance,” the Cato survey concludes, “they will forget these lessons and may find themselves repeating devastating mistakes of the past.”

If it isn’t already too late.

©2023 Las Vegas Review-Journal



The greatest retirement advantage of the young? Their youth

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has estimated that 90% of younger workers are saving too little for a comfortable retirement. That comes as no surprise given the cost-of-living crisis and the decade-long stagnation in real wages.

But younger workers have a significant advantage over their older colleagues in terms of retirement saving—yes, it’s their age—so it’s worth considering how to start investing and what mistakes to avoid.

For most people, their largest pension pot is going to be their workplace plan. The key here is not merely to maximize contributions, but also to ensure that your investments work as hard as possible. The best way of benefiting from the “youth dividend” is regular, long-term saving into a globally diversified, tax-advantaged vehicle such as a company pension.

This allows tax relief and the miracle of compound returns to boost your pot over several decades. At the same time, dollar or pound cost averaging can help smooth returns. Cost averaging occurs when a regular sum is invested each month—which tends to happen automatically with workplace pensions. When markets are low, each monthly contribution buys more units. When markets are strong, fewer units are purchased. The net effect is that, without thinking about it, the amateur investor tends to buy most when the markets are at their weakest, something many professional fund managers fail to achieve.

As for the investments themselves, most online investment platforms have algorithms to help inexperienced investors select a globally diversified portfolio of low-cost funds.

What young investors should avoid most is being unduly cautious with their retirement funds. Holding a large amount of cash can be a significant barrier to wealth creation.

The right amount of risk to take is largely a function of your time horizon. If you are saving to buy an apartment in the next few months or years, it is clearly inappropriate to hold your deposit in stock or Bitcoin. It could disappear before you need it. But for someone possibly four decades from retirement, there’s plenty of time to overcome the market’s periodic panics.

Even with interest rates at levels not seen since the 2008 financial crisis, the most competitive bank deposit rates come nowhere near to matching inflation. According to Moneyfacts, the best easy access savings rate is 4.5%, barely half the UK’s 8.7% inflation rate.

By **STUART TROW**
Bloomberg Opinion

Stuart Trow is co-host of Money, Money, Money on Switch Radio and author of *The Bluffer’s Guide to Economics*. Previously, he was a strategist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



In contrast, the UK’s benchmark FTSE-100, by no means the world’s strongest performing index, has averaged an annualized return of almost 13% over the past 10 years.

Over a long enough period of time, the ups and downs of the stock market, especially on a global basis, tend to average out. Unfortunately, many long-term investors miss out by keeping too much money in cash—especially in the immediate aftermath of market volatility. The S&P 500 index fell 35% in little more than a month between February and March 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. By August of that year, the index had entirely recouped that loss and went on to end 2020 16% higher than it began.

Highlighting the stock market’s long-term resilience and tendency to bounce back from misfortune overlooks another advantage that younger investors enjoy. People tend to focus on the value of what they have already invested. Most investors under the age of 40, though, will save more in the future than they have done to date. In that sense, a sharp market correction now might feel stressful, but could prove a boon to long-term wealth creation.

How much equity risk to take is, in many senses, a matter of personal taste. Huge returns are of little use if you can’t sleep at night. However, traditional investing rules of thumb can help people get comfortable with greater levels of risk. One such rule suggests that equity exposure should be 110 minus your age. On that basis a 30-year-old saving for retirement could reasonably hold 80% of their retirement pot in equity funds and the balance in bonds.

So while caution in the face of political, environmental and economic turmoil is understandable, it can be damaging for younger investors to have it affect their investment decisions too much. The young have few enough advantages in life that they can’t afford to ignore their greatest asset: youth.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Do we face nuclear confrontation? The erosion of agreements has heightened the risk

You may not know it from watching cable news, going grocery shopping or doing any other mundane chore of daily life, but the world is at an increased risk of nuclear confrontation. That's at least the assessment of National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, who delivered a speech at the Arms Control Association last week about a multidecade arms control structure that is gradually losing its sturdiness.

The system of nuclear agreements and risk-reduction measures spurred on by the 1962 Cuban missile crisis "has begun to erode," Sullivan told the group. His boss, President Joe Biden, was even more dramatic in October when he told a Democratic Party fundraiser that the chances of nuclear Armageddon were at their highest since that high-stakes gambit six decades earlier when President John F. Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev stared each other down for 13 long days in October.

While discussions about nuclear proliferation are often subject to hysteria, troubling developments have led Biden and Sullivan to these worrisome conclusions. Russian President Vladimir Putin is in the process of deploying tactical nuclear warheads, Iskander-M missiles and nuclear-capable Su-25 aircraft to his ally Belarus. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is pressing forward with his own nuclear development plans, including but not limited to the miniaturization of nuclear warheads, the testing of military reconnaissance satellites and the production of solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Meanwhile, China's nuclear modernization remains in full swing, with the Pentagon estimating that Beijing's nuclear arsenal could reach 1,500 warheads by 2035 if its current pace is maintained. And let's not forget that the New START accord, the last major nuclear agreement between Washington and Moscow, is no longer operable; last week, the U.S. responded to Russia's February withdrawal from the deal by limiting the usual information it sends to the Russians.

All of this sounds frightening to those who study nuclear weapons for a living. It's clearly frightening to the Biden administration

as well; otherwise, a senior U.S. security official wouldn't have spent part of his day delivering an address on the topic.

Fortunately, the White House has a plan to deal with all of this. Unfortunately, the plan has very poor odds of success.

According to the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review, Washington's strategy relies on two planks: modernizing the U.S. nuclear weapons apparatus to ensure that deterrence holds and exploring new nuclear transparency and risk-reduction measures to manage or, better yet, downgrade nuclear rivalry between the U.S. and its adversaries.

"Mutual, verifiable nuclear arms control offers the most effective, durable and responsible path to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our strategy and prevent their use," the strategy states. Sullivan reiterated those points last week, reminding everyone in the room that the U.S. is willing to get back to the table with Russia on developing a new arms control framework and enter nuclear talks with China without preconditions.

It takes more than one party for diplomacy to work, however. And as sober-minded as the Biden administration wants to be with one of the most important subjects on the planet, it's largely talking to itself. Russia, China and North Korea are at best uninterested in pursuing a nuclear dialogue with the U.S.

The three countries all have their own reasons for staying away from the negotiating table.

For China, it's partly a matter of basic arithmetic. From where Beijing sits, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to enter into bilateral nuclear talks with a country whose nuclear arsenal is nearly 13 times the size of its own. The U.S. has more than 5,200 nuclear warheads in its inventory to China's 410, according to a Federation of American Scientists assessment.

The Chinese are already at a massive disadvantage numerically, which means any mutual weapons reductions wouldn't alter the overall picture for the country. It should therefore be no surprise why Beijing would dismiss Washington's offer to talk. Sadly, there is unlikely to be any U.S.-China nuclear reduction negotiations un-

By **DANIEL DEPETRIS**
Chicago Tribune



Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

less one of two things occurs: Washington drops to Beijing's level or Beijing rises to Washington's.

For Russia, the situation is different. Unlike China, Russia is largely at parity with the U.S.—in fact, Russia's nuclear arsenal is larger than America's. Yet because U.S.-Russia relations are so acrimonious today, principally over the war in Ukraine, it is almost unfathomable to envision Putin greenlighting serious, substantive nuclear talks with the U.S., Ukraine's biggest military supplier. Whereas Washington and Moscow have historically separated strategic stability from other issues of dispute, this no longer appears to be the case.

The Russians are currently using the prospect of nuclear arms talks as a way to leverage concrete changes to U.S. foreign policy. This includes reentering arms control agreements, such as New START, that have long been in effect. As Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said over the weekend, Moscow will return to New START only if the U.S. abandons what he called "its fundamentally hostile policy toward Russia."

As far as North Korea is concerned, what is there to discuss? A nuclear deterrent is the ultimate insurance policy for an internationally isolated state that shares a heavily militarized border with a neighbor, South Korea, whose military is more sophisticated than its own and that considers the world's predominant superpower its main enemy. North Korea isn't any more likely to abandon its nuclear weapons program than the U.S. is. No amount of talk about denuclearization from State Department officials is going to change that basic dynamic.

We all like to envision a world without nuclear weapons. Reality, however, has a habit of crushing hopes and dreams.

With Trump's federal prosecution, timing is everything

Former President Donald Trump has been indicted on federal charges, catapulting the U.S. into new legal and constitutional territory. What this means for democracy and for the 2024 presidential race I'll leave for others to explore. Legally, the two key issues for Trump's future are, obviously, whether Trump is convicted and whether he wins the presidency. Less obviously, the timing matters a lot.

No doubt his lawyers will aim to delay the trial as long as possible. But it is almost certain that Trump will now be tried criminally in the midst of his presidential run. He will make bail, so he won't be in jail. And he can keep running regardless of the charges against him. In fact, he can keep running even if he is convicted and sitting in a jail cell — Eugene v. Debs did that in 1920.

If Trump is elected and takes office before his trial reaches a verdict, he will be able to dismiss the federal charges against himself, because under the Constitution, the Department of Justice answers to the sitting president. (State charges, like those filed in New York and those expected to be filed in Georgia, would remain in place, because they aren't under federal authority and Trump can't dismiss them.)

If, however, Trump is convicted in federal court before he takes office — which isn't totally out of the question, timing-wise — then we would be in uncharted territory. Nothing in the Constitution says a convicted felon can't be president. Trump would certainly attempt to pardon himself. But according to many constitutional scholars (including me, writing years ago), he can't. The Supreme Court would then have to decide whether the self-pardon was effective. If the justices said yes, Trump would go free. If they said no, Trump would have to serve out his sentence.

If Trump were convicted but got minimal or zero prison time, his presidency could proceed as normal — or as normal

as such a thing possibly could be. The judiciary is not going to want to block the choice of the American people to make a convicted Donald Trump their president, so you could imagine the courts going for a minimal sentence that wouldn't interfere with his ability to serve as president.

If Trump were imprisoned, we would face the unprecedented question of whether and how a president could do his job from within a federal penitentiary. One possibility, which admittedly sounds like the premise for a bad Hollywood comedy, is that a court would agree to put Trump under house arrest — in the White House. That wouldn't be very much punishment for most people. For Trump, it would mean he couldn't travel, which could arguably impede foreign-policy making, but not so much that he couldn't govern. (It would also presumably mean he couldn't play golf.)

Failing that sort of a compromise, a convicted, sentenced Trump would have to serve as president from inside prison. We have no idea how that would work. The Constitution is silent on the imprisonment of a president.

Arguably, Trump's powers could be given to the vice president under the 25th Amendment, if invoked by the vice president and voted on by a majority of the cabinet. Under the amendment's language, what's required is a written statement that the president is unable to discharge the duties of his office. It doesn't say that he is unable to discharge him because he is ill. You could imagine that being in federal prison would count as proof of inability to discharge the job.

The 25th Amendment could be used, I suppose, with Trump's agreement — although it is hard to imagine that as a matter of Trump's personal psychology. If Trump cooperated, however, the vice president could do his job until he

By **NOAH FELDMAN**
Bloomberg Opinion



Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of The Broken Constitution: Lincoln, Slavery and the Refounding of America.

was released from prison.

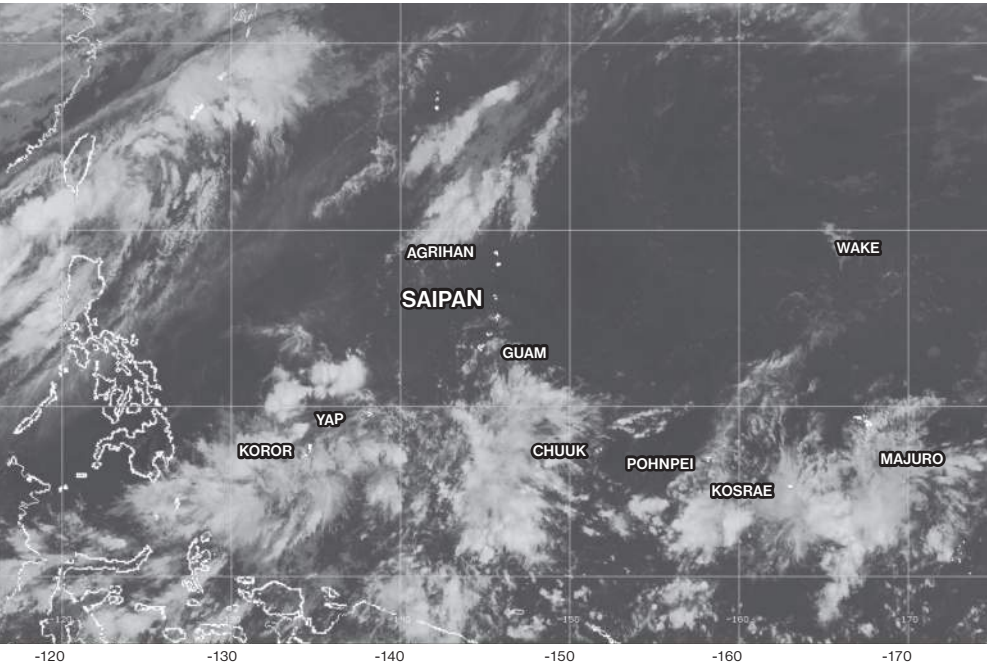
If Trump did not agree to relinquish his powers while in prison, then the 25th Amendment would send the issue to both houses of Congress, where it would take a two-thirds in both chambers to hand Trump's powers to his vice president.

There are some technical issues here, to be sure. The 25th Amendment requires the existence of a cabinet. If Trump were to be imprisoned after his election but before his new cabinet could be confirmed, things could get messy. If the 25th were invoked by the remaining members of Biden's cabinet, Trump would certainly fire them. That could lead to a failure of the amendment, because it would raise the question of whether Trump's firing of those cabinet officers was effective given his nominal "incapacity."

All these scenarios sound far-fetched, I know. But so is the situation we now found ourselves in: A former president, a leading candidate for the presidency, has been charged criminally in a case where he is, statistically speaking, very likely to be convicted. From here on out, it's all new ground.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:40 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers moving through the Guam and Rota waters, with just isolated showers to the north. The Ipan buoy reveals a 4 to 5 foot trade-wind swell from just north of east. Adding in wind waves and a fading northwest swell shown in the wave model data allows combined seas of 4 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	88° / 81°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:26 AM	3:16 PM	-
Thursday	3:07 AM	4:11 PM	-
Friday	3:50 AM	5:07 PM	-
Saturday	4:36 AM	6:03 PM	-
Sunday	5:26 AM	6:59 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	58° / 42°	
Beijing	Sunny	99° / 69°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°	
London	Sunny	82° / 56°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71° / 60°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 49°	
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	80° / 65°	
Osaka	Showers	80° / 71°	
Paris	Sunny	85° / 61°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	78° / 64°	
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	82° / 67°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Tokyo	Showers	77° / 69°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:06 AM	High Tide	2.16	
11:23 AM	Low Tide	0.30	
6:00 PM	High Tide	1.76	
10:58 PM	Low Tide	1.21	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Labor: Pregnant Workers Fairness Act takes effect on June 27

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler said the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act will take effect in the CNMI starting on June 27.

Serving as guest speaker of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly membership meeting last June 3 at Kensington Hotel, Staffler said the new law will eliminate discrimination and ensure workplace accommodations for workers with known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act applies to employers having 15 or more employees. It was originally a stand-alone bill first introduced in 2012, but was later included as Division II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

It was passed by Congress last Dec. 27 and signed into law by President Joe Biden last Dec. 29.

Staffler said under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, "a covered employer cannot require an employee to accept an accommodation without a discussion; may not deny a job or other employment opportunities because you require reasonable accommodations; require an employee to take leave if another reasonable accommodation can be provided; retaliate against an individual; and interfere with any individual right under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act."

Staffler said reasonable accommodations would be considered changes to the work environment or the way things are usually done at work.

"Examples include the ability to sit or drink water, receive



MARK RABAGO

CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler served as one of the guest speakers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly membership meeting last June 3 at Kensington Hotel.

closer parking, have flexible hours, receive appropriately sized uniform and safely apparel, receive additional additional break time to use the bathroom and rest, take leave or time off to recover from childbirth, and be excused from strenuous activities that involve exposure from compounds not safe for pregnant women," she said.

Updated website

Aside from sharing details of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, Staffler also said Labor has finally updated its website (marianaslabor.net).

"We have given it a new look. So if you go on there,

you'll see that some of the different parts of the menu have changed. We're trying to streamline it. It was redundant and old and had some 2008 data there. It's gone now and these were stuff before the Consolidated National Resources Act was in place and so we updated the page since then, finally," she said.

A nice feature of the upgraded website are the various links for job openings and Staffler encourages all companies in the CNMI to post their job openings at Labor's website.

"I would love to do that to every business in the CNMI because to be honest, not ev-

erybody posts their jobs with us. I mean, I know that it's a service that's available, but it is not exactly required unless you are trying to hire a foreign worker."

And for companies that employ or are planning to hire CNMI-Only Workers, Staffler said Labor is more than welcome to help them fulfill the job posting which is required under the law.

"If you are trying to hire a foreign worker you are required to use our system. So make sure you're getting that. But also if you are not sure if you're planning to hire a CW worker, but you would like to post on our website, please do or if you would like to give us the link that you would like our page to link to directly for you. Send that to that email up there (mlagultodol@gmail.com) on the wall."

In a perfect world, Labor wants all CNMI job postings funneled through their website.

"We would love to link to your job posting because a lot of people out in the commu-

nity assume that the Department of Labor has all the job postings. Unfortunately, that's just not true. I wish it were and I would like to work toward that... We really want to make it a one-stop shop for job openings because there's a lot of people who are looking for jobs and a lot of people who need employees. So let us be that middle manager for you," added Staffler.

Remote work opportunities

Staffler also envisions Labor as a conduit to help CNMI workers get remote work so they don't have to move to the U.S. mainland for better-paying jobs.

"You may or may not think it's a good thing, but I really see that our world is changing into remote work, or we really need to empower our people to know what that is and how to do it. Also to know what options are out there. We want to increase links to remote work options even for people who might only have a high school diploma. There

are remote jobs out there that can meet your educational and skill levels."

To this end, Labor is planning to work closely with Glenn Hunter, special assistant for Broadband Policy and Development Program, to improve the CNMI's internet connectivity with the rest of the world to realize the potential of remote work in the Commonwealth.

"I know you know a few people in our community that have done that. Those who work for big internet companies have come home to be with their families and their kids are playing with their cousins and they still get to work from home. We'd like to see our people return to that but also the people who are here to see if possibly they can have access to that. We want to provide different training for people to learn [remote work] and that's something we'd be interested in. It's not something we offer yet but if you're a training provider that is looking to do that I want to talk to you," said Staffler.

Lawsuit pits young climate change activists vs fossil fuel-friendly state at trial

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Young people challenging Montana officials over inaction on climate change are expected back in state court on Tuesday in a first-of-a-kind trial of a lawsuit that environmentalists hope will spur changes in the fossil fuel-friendly state.

State officials have sought to downplay Montana's contributions to global warming as the trial that opened Monday is being closely watched for possible legal precedents even though the scope of the lawsuit has been narrowed in earlier rulings.

The trial is scheduled to last two weeks with 16 young plaintiffs and their attorneys seeking to persuade District Judge Kathy Seeley that the state's allegiance to fossil fuels endangers their health and livelihoods and threatens future generations.

Grace Gibson-Snyder, 19, of Missoula, Montana—one of the plaintiffs—told the court that smoke from wildfires has gotten worse with climate change and become a "defining experience" of playing soccer in high school. The smoke regularly shrouded her hometown in

unhealthy air, forced practice cancellations and kept teammates with asthma from taking the field.

"It's not pleasant," Gibson-Snyder said. "It's so uncomfortable as you're breathing deeper and deeper."

After Monday's opening court session, Gibson-Snyder said she felt empowered "to know we're being heard. We are telling our stories and I am looking forward to a shift toward a better policy and healthier future for all of us."

The case is the first of dozens of similar lawsuits to reach trial. Experts say it could set legal precedent but isn't likely to spur immediate policy changes in Montana. Its state agencies have never denied a permit for a fossil fuel project and the state's Legislature recently passed new laws favoring oil, gas and coal over renewable energy.

The lawsuit centers on Montana's constitutional right to a "clean and healthful environment," and whether that means the state should act to protect residents against worsening climate change. By enlisting plaintiffs ranging in age from 5 to 22, the

environmental firm bringing the lawsuit is trying to highlight how young people are harmed by climate change now and in the future.

A lawyer for the state said sparsely populated Montana produces "minuscule" emissions. Montana Assistant Attorney General Michael Russell also said the harms alleged by Gibson-Snyder and the other plaintiffs can't be traced to specific actions by state officials.

"Climate change is a global issue that effectively relegates Montana's role to that of a spectator," he said.

In the three years since the lawsuit was filed, the scope of the case has been narrowed to whether Montana's Environmental Policy Act—which requires state agencies to balance the health of the environment against resource development—is unconstitutional because it does not require officials to consider greenhouse gas emissions or their climate impacts.

Judge Seeley has said she could rule that the state's climate change exception in its environmental law is at odds with its constitution, but she can't tell the legislature what to do to remedy the violation.

Environmentalists have called the bench trial a turning point because similar suits in nearly every state have already been dismissed.

Japan's Toyota announces battery electric vehicle initiatives

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota plans to make an all solid-state battery as part of its ambitious plans for battery electric vehicles, the company said Tuesday, amid mounting criticism Japan's top automaker needs to do more to fight climate change.

Toyota Motor Corp. aims for a commercial solid-state battery as soon as 2027. Charging time, one of the main drawbacks of electric vehicles, will get shortened to 10 minutes or less, the company said in a statement.

"With the evolution of the vehicle's operating system, the next-generation battery EV will also enable customization of the 'driving feel,' with a focus on acceleration, turning and stopping," it said.

EV owners usually have charging stations in their homes and keep their cars plugged in overnight to recharge. That's one of the main reasons Toyota has long insisted that hybrids are a better solution. A hybrid recharges as the car runs.

Toyota President Koji Sato has said the company must play catchup after falling behind in the EV sector. The automaker is likely to face harsh criticism on its climate change commitments at a shareholders' meeting in Toyota city, central Japan, set for Wednesday.

In its latest announcement, Toyota said it was also working on innovating lithium-ion batteries, the battery type now

in most EVs, and wants to offer new affordable options.

Toyota says it is committed to a "hydrogen society" and is continuing to work on models powered by hydrogen, including fuel cell vehicles.

Hydrogen is still expensive and usually made using fossil fuels, although it can be made using renewable energy. Toyota said it's working with various partners to produce cleaner and cheaper hydrogen.

Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and Lexus luxury models, is also working on second-generation biofuels. Biofuels, such as ethanol, are considered more renewable than fossil fuels though they have other drawbacks.

Nation

OVER CHARGES HE MISHANDLED SECRET DOCS

Trump will face judge in historic court appearance

MIAMI (AP)—Donald Trump was set to make his first court appearance Tuesday in a historic criminal case charging the former president with hoarding top secret government documents, boastfully displaying them to visitors and trying to hide them from investigators who demanded them back.

Trump approached his Miami court date with characteristic bravado, insisting as he has done through years of legal woes that he has done

nothing wrong and was being persecuted for political purposes. But the gravity of the moment is unmistakable as he answers to 37 felony counts that accuse him of willfully retaining classified records that prosecutors say could have jeopardized national security if exposed.

The case is laden with political implications for Trump, who currently holds the dominant spot in the early days of the 2024 Republican presiden-

tial primary. But it also poses profound legal consequences given the prospect of a years-long prison sentence. Even for a defendant whose post-presidential life has been dominated by investigations, the documents probe has stood out for both the apparent volume of evidence amassed by prosecutors and the severity of the allegations.

It's also a watershed moment for a Justice Department that until last week had never

before brought charges against a former president. Attorney General Merrick Garland, an appointee of President Joe Biden, sought to insulate the department from political attacks by handing ownership of the case last year to a special counsel Jack Smith, who on Friday declared, "We have one set of laws in this country, and they apply to everyone."

The arraignment, though largely procedural in nature, is the latest in an unprecedented

public reckoning this year for Trump, who faces charges in New York arising from hush money payments during his 2016 presidential campaign as well as ongoing investigations in Washington and Atlanta into efforts to undo the results of the 2020 race. He's sought to project confidence in the face of unmistakable legal peril, attacking Smith as "deranged," pledging to stay in the race and scheduling a speech and fundraiser for Tuesday night at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club.

"They're using this because they can't win the election fairly and squarely," Trump said Monday in an interview with *Americano Media*.

The court appearance is also unfolding against the backdrop of potential protests and unrest. Some high-profile backers have used barbed rhetoric to voice support. Trump himself has encouraged supporters to join a planned protest Tuesday at the Miami courthouse, where he is expected to surrender to authorities.

Some Trump supporters were also planning to load buses to head to Miami from other parts of Florida, raising concerns for law enforcement officials who are preparing for the potential of unrest around the courthouse. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez said the city would be ready, and police chief Manuel A. Morales said downtown could see anywhere from a few thousand up to 50,000 protesters. He said the city would divert traffic and possibly block streets depending on crowd size.

As Trump's motorcade slowed to a crawl as it entered his Miami resort on Monday, a loud cheer went up from about 50 supporters who had gathered across the street. He flashed them a thumbs up as he passed and they waved their pro-Trump signs and banners.

A near-brawl broke out just minutes before Trump's arrival when a man stood in front of the crowd holding signs and wearing a suit covered with a two-word phrase calling the former president an obscenity. Supporters rushed him and several screamed at him before Doral police interceded and moved him down the street.



A police officer helps with traffic control as protesters and supporters wait for Trump to arrive at Trump National Doral resort in Doral, Fla., Monday, June 12, 2023.

Often sidelined at Pride, transgender, nonbinary people move front and center

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Kara Murphy, a transgender woman helping to organize the Union County Pride in a suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina, is heartened to see Pride celebrations across the country, big and small, shining a spotlight on transgender rights this year.

"When we look and see who's standing up for us, it kind of signals the strength of the movement," she said.

Whether it's transgender grand marshals at the massive New York City Pride parade or a photo display of transgender victims of violence at the much smaller festival in Hastings, Nebraska, many celebrations this June are taking a public stand against state legislation targeting transgender people.

Some Prides are putting transgender people front and center at events where they've

often been sidelined because of a historical emphasis on gay and lesbian rights, along with the same sorts of prejudice and misinformation held by many straight, cisgender people about trans lives.

The growing number of new laws and policies, including restrictions on gender-affirming care, public bathroom use and participation in sports, has prompted Pride organizers to more fully embrace a segment of the LGBTQ+ populace that hasn't always felt included.

While trans activists have always been integral to steps toward greater LGBTQ+ rights, "too often, the larger LGBTQ movement ignored or even actively erased the voices of trans and nonbinary folks," Kierra Johnson, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force, said in an email.

"Uplifting trans voices and fighting for trans liberation

must be at the forefront of our movement" when the rights of transgender and nonbinary people are "under a coordinated attack," Johnson said.

"We are specifically standing by and being supportive of those who are transgender, because we understand that they're under assault, that their rights are under assault," said Jonathan Swindle, organizer of Pride in Corpus Christi, Texas. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott recently signed legislation that would make Texas the most populous state to ban gender-affirming treatments for minors. At least 20 others have similar bans.

This year, Swindle said, steps to show solidarity include displaying the blue, pink and white transgender flag, offering Pride T-shirts in just pink and blue, involving trans advocacy groups at events, and offering resources

for trans people, including legal help with changing gender designations.

Smaller events are also planned that bring people together, but Swindle said those won't be widely advertised because of security concerns and potential threats. This year, he said, "the static in the air and the temperament is so much different" from 2022, when Pride seemed more celebratory.

One transgender board member, he noted, abruptly resigned last month and deactivated their social media accounts because they didn't want to be in the public eye.

"This year, it's like no, we have to fight through our messaging, as well as reach the young generation to help them understand that it's going to be OK," Swindle said. "Yes, they're doing this, but we will be there. There are resources for you."

McCarthy, conservatives reach truce to allow House to move forward on bills

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Kevin McCarthy appeared Monday to have resolved, for now, an impasse with some of the more conservative members of his caucus who had brought the chamber to a standstill last week.

McCarthy met with nearly a dozen lawmakers in his office in an effort to quell a revolt and jumpstart various priorities that had stalled last week amid the GOP infighting. He called it a productive meeting where "everybody's attitude was, 'How do we find where we all work together?'" McCarthy promised more meetings with last week's holdouts and a focus on reducing federal spending in the weeks ahead.

"We've got a lot more victories for the American people we want to fight for, and we're only able to achieve it if we stick together," he told reporters.

Last week, barely a dozen Republicans, mainly members of the House Freedom Caucus, shuttered House business in protest of McCarthy's leadership. Votes on a pair of pro-gas stove bills important to GOP activists could not be taken. At the heart of their displeasure

was a compromise that McCarthy struck with President Joe Biden on suspending the debt ceiling, which they viewed as inadequately cutting spending.

While McCarthy expressed confidence the House would take up those bills this week, he also acknowledged he could face similar obstacles in the future in which members of his own party oppose routine procedural votes that prevent the House from taking up various GOP priorities. Last week's procedural rule vote was the first to fail in nearly two decades.

"Perhaps we'll be back here next week," warned Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., as he exited the meeting with McCarthy.

"You know, each day there's another challenge. I just wake up every morning, pray for the patience of Job and find a solution and move forward," McCarthy said of the potential threat from his right flank.

Gaetz said there was an agreement from McCarthy to further look at spending on various federal boards, commissions and other entities that could be cut back to save money.

World

Ukraine claims recapture of 7 villages in early stages of counteroffensive

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian troops have retaken seven villages spanning 90 square kilometers (35 square miles) from Russian forces in the past

week, the deputy defense minister said Monday as the early stages of Kyiv's counteroffensive notched small successes.

Deputy Defense Minister

Hanna Maliar wrote on the Telegram app that the Ukrainian flag was again flying over the village of Storozhiv, in the eastern Donetsk province, and

that her troops had also retaken three other nearby small villages and three in neighboring Zaporizhzhia province.

"The battles are tough, but our movement is there, and that is very important," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. He added that rainy weather is challenging his troops, and that he's discussed with his military commanders "which points of the front we need to strengthen and what actions we can take to break more Russian positions."

On Sunday, Ukrainian officials said their troops took the Donetsk villages of Blahodatne, Makarivka and

Neskuchne—south of the town of Velyka Novosilka. Maliar reported Monday that the Zaporizhzhia province settlements of Lobkove, Levadne and Novodrivka were also now back under Ukrainian control.

Russian officials did not confirm Ukraine's gains, which were impossible to verify and could be reversed in the to-and-fro of war. The gains amounted to only small bits of territory and underscored the difficulty of the battle ahead for Ukrainian forces, who will have to fight meter by meter to regain the roughly one-fifth of their country under Russian occupation.

Recent fighting on the western edge of the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line has been complicated by a dam breach that sent floodwaters into a part of the Dnieper River separating the two sides.

Western analysts and military officials have cautioned that an effort to rid Ukraine of entrenched and powerfully armed Russian troops could take years, and the success of the Ukrainian counteroffensive is far from certain. French President Emmanuel Macron said in Paris that the Ukrainian counteroffensive began several days ago and "is set to be deployed over several weeks, if not months."

Berlusconi's death draws tributes, even from critics, in Italy and beyond

ROME (AP)—Adored, scorned, impossible to ignore in life, former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in death drew tributes even from his critics, and ever more lavish praise from admirers, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as prayers from Pope Francis.

Following word of Berlusconi's death on Monday in a Milan hospital, where he was being treated for chronic leukemia, reaction poured in from around the world, from national leaders to announcers who burst into tears on one of his television networks, for the populist three-time premier and media mogul.

Here are some of the reactions:

■ In a condolence telegram, Putin hailed Berlusconi as a "patriarch" of Italian politics and a true patriot who had improved Italy's standing on the world stage.

"I have always sincerely admired his wisdom, his ability to make balanced, far-sighted decisions even in the most difficult situations," Putin said in the telegram released by the Kremlin. "During each of our meetings, I was literally charged with his in-

credible vitality, optimism and sense of humor."

Berlusconi hosted Putin twice at one of his Sardinia Emerald Coast villas, and the Russian reciprocated, including with a stay at Putin's dacha. For Berlusconi's last birthday in September, Putin gifted him bottles of vodka, even as the Italian government staunchly backed Ukraine in the war against the Russian invasion.

"Undoubtedly, he was a politician of the European and the world scale," Putin said. "There are few such people in the international arena now. He was a great friend of our people and did a lot to develop business, friendly relations between Russia and European countries." Berlusconi had expressed reservations about sanctions against Russian interests over the invasion.

■ Former U.S. President George W. Bush, in a message from Kennebunkport, Maine, recalled Berlusconi as a "vibrant leader with a personality to match. (Wife) Laura and I were fortunate to spend a good deal of time with him during my presidency. There was never a dull moment with Silvio. He strengthened the

friendship between Italy and the United States, and we are grateful for his commitment to our important alliance. Laura and I send our condolences to the Berlusconi family and the people of Italy."

■ Far-right Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, whose coalition government's junior partners include the Forza Italia party Berlusconi founded three decades ago, bid him "farewell, Silvio" in a video statement carried on Italian television. With his passing, "a great European political leader and a great Italian is gone. His intuitions, his battles, his commitment transformed our nation and opened spaces for authentic liberty."

■ Pope Francis, in a condolence telegram sent to Berlusconi's eldest daughter, Marina Berlusconi, assured his closeness to all the family. The pontiff said that the late premier had carried out "public responsibilities with an energetic temperament." Francis prayed that God grant "eternal peace for him and consolation of the heart for those who weep for his passing." Francis said he joined in the condolences "with a fervent remembrance in prayer."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan nuclear plant conducts tests before discharging treated radioactive wastewater into sea

TOKYO (AP)—The operator of the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant began tests on Monday of newly constructed facilities for discharging treated radioactive wastewater into the sea, a plan strongly opposed by local fishing communities and neighboring countries. The tests at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant use fresh water instead of the treated water, operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings said. Plant workers examined pumps and emergency shutdown equipment at the newly constructed seaside facility, which will dilute the treated water with large amounts of seawater. The diluted water then enters an undersea tunnel and is released into the ocean about 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) from the coast. The undersea tunnel and other key facilities are near completion. TEPCO

says the voluntary tests are expected to continue for about two weeks ahead of mandatory pre-operation checks to be conducted by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, possibly in early July. Japan's government announced plans in April 2021 to gradually release the treated but still slightly radioactive water following its dilution to what it says are safe levels. Japanese officials say the water, currently stored in about a thousand tanks at the plant, needs to be removed to prevent accidental leaks in case of an earthquake and to make room for the plant's decommissioning.

Lava pours from crater of Mayon Volcano, thousands warned to be ready to flee


LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP)—Lava poured from the crater of the Philippines' most active volcano Monday, prompting officials to warn tens of thousands of villagers to be prepared to flee if the gentle eruption turns into

a violent and life-threatening explosion. More than 13,000 people have left the mostly poor farming communities within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of Mayon Volcano's crater in mandatory evacuations since volcanic activity increased last week. But an unspecified number of residents remain within the permanent danger zone below Mayon, an area long declared off-limits to people but where generations have lived and farmed because they have nowhere else to go. With the volcano beginning to expel lava Sunday night, the high-risk zone around Mayon may be expanded should the eruption turn violent, said Teresito Bacolcol, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Bacolcol said if that happens, people in any expanded danger zone should be prepared to evacuate to emergency shelters. "What we are seeing now is an effusive eruption," Bacolcol told The Associated Press. "We are looking at this on a day-to-day basis."

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

† Raymond Anthony Muna Cabrera

"Bo" or "Ramon Tabi"
August 05, 1965 – June 09, 2023



In his New Life, he now joins his:

Wife: † Vivian Cabilic Cabrera

Mother: † Angelica SN Muna

Sister: † Patricia Muna Cabrera

In-laws: † Amparo Luay Cabilic & † Salvador Cabilic

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Father: Jesus DLC Cabrera & Ana

Children: Rayvian C. Cabrera & William Jr. A. Kani
Tasia S. Bocago & Family

Special Friend: Erminda Ereno

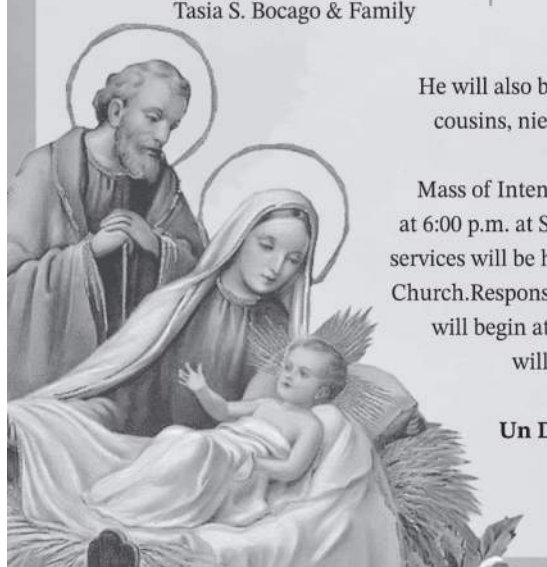
Siblings:
Victoria C. & Ramon C. Sablan & Family
Evelyn C. & Benjamin D. Palacios & Family
George C. & Brenda B. Repeki & Family
Vince C. & Christine G. Cabrera & Family
Sharon G. Cabrera & Family
Homer G. Cabrera
Lee D. Cabrera

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church. Funeral and memorial services will be held on Friday, June 16, 2023 at San Jose Church. Responso, holy rosary, viewing and last respects will begin at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

Un Dungkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Children & Family



Good Housekeeping

What's the differences between cluttercore and clustercore?

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

When it comes to home design, two seemingly similar concepts have gained attention in the online world in recent years: cluttercore and clustercore.

While they share similarities, a few key differences set them apart. Cluttercore and clustercore represent two contrasting philosophies when it comes to organizing and displaying personal belongings.

Ultimately, both cluttercore and clustercore offer unique ways to infuse personality and creativity into home design, allowing you to express your individuality through your living spaces.

What is cluttercore?

Cluttercore finds beauty in the chaos, embracing the idea that a space can be filled with items that bring joy and nostalgia. It encourages a sense of comfort and familiarity, where every nook and cranny tells a story. Cluttercore enthusiasts often prioritize sentimentality over minimalism, allowing their homes to become a reflection of their personal journeys and experiences.

Functionally, it embraces a more haphazard approach, where an abundance of objects and knickknacks are intentionally scattered throughout a space, creating a cozy and lived-in atmosphere. It celebrates the beauty of imperfection and embraces the sentimental value of personal belongings.

What is clustercore?

On the other hand, clustercore takes a more curated and intentional approach. It involves grouping objects and decor in deliberate clusters, creating captivating focal points that draw the eye and tell a story. Clustercore strikes a balance between showcasing



To achieve a cluttercore look, it's important to strike a balance between intentional curation and visual appeal.

personal items and maintaining a sense of order. It encourages thoughtful curation and careful placement to achieve a harmonious and visually striking space.

Clustercore enthusiasts pay attention to the relationship

between objects, considering color schemes, textures and shapes to create a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing arrangement. Each cluster becomes a focal point within the space, capturing attention and inviting exploration. It encourages

a mindful approach to showcasing personal belongings while maintaining balance.

Re-creating the looks at home

Creating a cluttercore look in your home involves embrac-



Clustercore strikes a balance between showcasing personal items and maintaining a sense of order.

HANDOUT/TNS

ing imperfection and creating a space filled with cherished objects and personal mementos. Start by curating a collection of items that hold sentimental value or evoke happy memories. They could be vintage trinkets, family heirlooms or quirky finds from flea markets.

Embrace the concept of organized chaos by strategically placing the objects throughout your space. Avoid strict organization and instead allow your belongings to be casually scattered and displayed on shelves, tabletops and even walls. Embrace an eclectic mix of textures, colors and patterns to add visual interest and depth. The key is to create a space that feels cozy and filled with stories.

To achieve a clustercore look, it's important to strike a balance between intentional curation and visual appeal. Start by selecting a few key items that hold sentimental value or reflect your personal interests. They could include cherished photographs, vintage treasures or artwork. Next, consider the composition of your clusters. Arrange items in groups of varying sizes, heights and textures to create visual interest. Experiment with different arrangements until you find a configuration that feels harmonious and vi-

sually captivating. Don't be afraid to mix and match different styles and eras to add depth and character to your clusters.

Remember to consider the surrounding space and ensure that the clusters complement the overall aesthetic of the room. By curating thoughtfully arranged clusters, you can create striking focal points that tell a story and infuse your home with the enchanting allure of clustercore.

I am continually inspired by how these design philosophies can transform a space. Cluttercore celebrates the joy that comes from surrounding ourselves with cherished belongings, while clustercore invites us to curate intentional



HANDOUT/TNS

Creating a cluttercore look in your home involves embracing imperfection and creating a space filled with cherished objects and personal mementos.

arrangements that captivate the eye. Both styles offer opportunities for self-expression and creativity in home design.

Whether you prefer the cozy chaos of cluttercore or the curated compositions of clustercore, the styles remind us that our homes are not just spaces, but reflections of our personalities and journeys. So let's embrace the allure of clutter and the art of clustering as we design spaces that truly feel like home.

ASK ANGI

How can I stay safe during outdoor entertaining?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
ASK ANGI

The late spring and summer months herald an excellent time for outdoor entertaining and fun cookouts. But nothing ruins a good time faster than injuries or damage. Follow these summer safety tips to ensure a happy and danger-free experience.

1 Keep a fire extinguisher handy

If you're using any fire outside, including a grill, fire pit, tiki torches or anything else

with flames, you want a fire extinguisher nearby and ready to use. Make sure it's in an easily accessible place and that everyone in the family knows where it is and how to use it. Check the pressure gauge regularly and recharge or replace it as needed. Never leave a burning fire unattended; sparks and fire can spread quickly when you're not looking.

2 Maintain good outdoor lighting

Even if you think you know your way around your yard

at night, you could easily lose track of your surroundings or trip over an unexpected yard tool, toy or other debris in the dark. Ensure your outdoor lighting is in good shape and keeps the area well-lit. Not only is it safer, but it also contributes to a more inviting environment.

3 Stay safe around water

If you have a pool, you probably already know these rules, but it's also essential to stay safe around koi ponds, fountains or other outdoor water features. A small child can

drown in as little as one inch of water, so you should take this seriously. Install fencing around water features and consider adding an alarm that will sound if something or someone falls into the water.

4 Be cautious with electricity

Outdoor electrical features such as televisions, sound systems and other entertainment devices have become popular in recent years. Ensure that any electricity you use outside is up to code. All outdoor outlets should be GFCI outlets, which include built-in

circuit breakers to shut off in the event of a surge. Installing conduits and wiring outdoors – for example, to power outdoor lights – requires complex specifications for safety. Unless you are experienced with electrical code, leave outdoor wiring to the professionals.

5 Keep yourself and your family healthy

Don't overlook the basics. Wear sunscreen during the daytime and use bug spray to keep away annoying or stinging pests. Keep a first aid kit handy in the event of unexpected injury. And, of course,

stay hydrated. It's easy to forget how important water is to staying healthy in summer.

6 Watch out for the weather

Even on bright sunny days, weather can change quickly in the summertime. Keep an eye on weather reports and take them seriously. Be ready to take shelter in a sudden rainstorm, lightning, tornado, or other severe weather.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

Life & Style

Pat Sajak announces 'Wheel of Fortune' retirement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pat Sajak is taking one last spin on "Wheel of Fortune," announcing Monday that its upcoming season will be his last as host.

Sajak announced his retirement from the venerable game show in a tweet.

"Well, the time has come. I've decided that our 41st season, which begins in September, will be my last. It's been a wonderful ride, and I'll have more to say in the

coming months. Many thanks to you all," the tweet said.

Sajak, 76, has presided over the game show, which features contestants guessing letters to try to fill out words and phrases to win money and prizes, since 1981. He took over duties from Chuck Woolery, who was the show's first host when it debuted in 1975.

Along with Vanna White, who joined the show in 1982, Sajak has been a television

mainstay. The show soon shifted to a syndication and aired in the evening in many markets, becoming one of the most successful game shows in history. Sajak will continue to serve as a consultant on the show for three years after his retirement as host.

"As the host of Wheel of Fortune, Pat has entertained millions of viewers across America for 40 amazing years. We are incredibly grateful and proud to have had Pat as our

host for all these years and we look forward to celebrating his outstanding career throughout the upcoming season," said Suzanne Prete, executive vice

president of game shows for Sony Pictures Television.

In recent years, some of Sajak's banter and chiding of contestants have become fodder for

social media. That prompted Sajak to remark in his retirement post about doing another season: "(If nothing else, it'll keep the clickbait sites busy!)"



Pat Sajak, left, and Vanna White, from "Wheel of Fortune," attend a ceremony honoring Harry Friedman with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Nov. 1, 2019, in Los Angeles.

BTS turns 10. Seoul lights up landmarks to celebrate

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Skyscrapers, bridges and other landmarks in South Korea's capital will be lit up in purple on Monday as the country begins celebrating the 10th anniversary of K-pop band BTS, whose global popularity is a source of national pride.

The lights will provide the backdrop for various social media-driven events marking the 2013 debut of the seven-member group, which is now on a temporary hiatus as its singers take turns releasing

solo material while the others begin to serve their mandatory military duties.

From Monday evening, numerous Seoul structures, including City Hall, the 123-story Lotte World Tower, several Han River bridges, and the futuristic DDP—a Zaha Hadid-designed aluminum and concrete dome that's often used for visual art—will be bathed in purple, a color associated with BTS, according to city officials and the group's management company, Hybe.

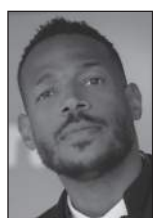
Messages congratulating

BTS were displayed on digital screens in buildings across Seoul, while postal authorities issued stamps marking the group's anniversary, which will be available at post offices starting Tuesday.

Seoul officials hope that the celebrations, which will continue for around two weeks, will boost tourism. The city has designated more than a dozen sites associated with BTS, including places where the group held major performances or shot some of their famous videos.

Marlon Wayans is cited after luggage dispute with United Airlines worker at Denver airport

DENVER (AP)—Comedian and actor Marlon Wayans was cited for disturbing the peace after a dispute he said he had with a United Airlines employee over carry-on luggage at the Denver airport last week, police said Monday.



Wayans

Wayans said on Instagram that a gate agent told him he had too many bags and, despite consolidating his luggage, he was told he would have to gate check his bag rather than carry it on. Way-

ans, who said his treatment constituted harassment, said he took his ticket and began walking onto the plane.

In response to questions about what had occurred, United issued a statement that did not refer to Wayans by name.

"In Denver on Friday, a customer who had been told

he would have to gate-check his bag instead pushed past a United employee at the jet bridge and attempted to board the aircraft. The customer did not fly on United to his destination," it said.

Wayans said he booked a flight instead on American Airlines to Kansas City, saying he would rather fly coach on another airline than fly first-class on United. He apologized to his fans in Kansas City for missing a performance.

US decides to rejoin UNESCO and pay back dues, to counter Chinese influence

PARIS (AP)—UNESCO announced Monday that the United States plans to rejoin the U.N. cultural and scientific agency—and pay more than \$600 million in back dues—after a decade-long dispute sparked by the organization's move to include Palestine as a member.

U.S. officials say the decision to return was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the U.S. in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

The move will face a vote by UNESCO's member states in the coming weeks. But approval seems a formality after the resounding applause that

greeted the announcement in UNESCO's Paris headquarters Monday. Not a single country raised an objection to the return of a country that was once the agency's single biggest funder.

The U.S. and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011. The Trump administration decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the following year, citing long-running anti-Israel bias and management problems.

UNESCO's director general, Audrey Azoulay, has worked to address those concerns since her election in 2017, and that appears to have paid off.

"It's a historic moment for UNESCO," she said Monday. "It's also an important day for multilateralism."

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma submitted a letter last week to Azoulay formalizing the plan to rejoin. He noted progress in depoliticizing debate about the Middle East and reforming the agency's management, according to the hand-delivered letter, obtained by AP.

The decision is a big boost to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known for its World Heritage program as well as projects to fight climate change and teach girls to read.

Former classmate in affair hopes for a future together

DEAR ABBY: In high school, I had a close male friend, "Adam." After graduation, I moved out of state. We remained friends for a while in college, calling, writing and visiting each other. He often declared his love for me, but I was interested only in a friendship.

As with most high school relationships, we lost contact. Now, rereading old letters from friends, I realize there was a constant theme that we were perfect for each other and I should give him a chance.

Fast-forward 20 years: My husband and I went back for a high school reunion and I met Adam's wife. We all went out to dinner and had a very nice time. Adam and I exchanged phone numbers, agreed to stay in touch and we actually did. For eight years, we have been texting and staying in touch.

Our marriages have deteriorated and we complain about our spouses, but also have real conversations and have grown very close. Three months ago, we met halfway between our two cities and began an affair. We now meet once or twice a month and spend the day in bed. We call each other once a day and text constantly. He even came to my city with his best friend who knows about us.

I'm falling in love with Adam. He says he's unhappy and thinks about separating from his wife. I'd leave my husband for him and

move to his state because his children are younger. He hasn't made any promises about the future, but he constantly tells me how his wife yells at and belittles him. I think we could be very good together. How can I convince him we deserve this chance?

HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART

DEAR SWEETHEART: While you are willing to leave your husband, Adam's situation is more complicated. There are younger children involved and, as verbally abusive as his wife may be, he may not wish to disrupt their lives. Divorces are painful, messy and expensive.

I think it would be in your best interests to lay your cards on the table and ask Adam what his plans are regarding his wife and his children and where you fit in. Then cross your fingers and pray he is honest with you because the odds are NOT in your favor. (Just sayin'.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm married to a wonderful man, but his driving is very stressful for me. He usually drives 10 to 30 miles over the speed limit. Sometimes, he'll approach a turn that's marked 25 doing 48. His car has a large digital readout of the speed, and I can easily see it. If I say anything he gets very angry, and as he's getting older—mid-70s—his reaction

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

time isn't optimal. Help! I don't know what to do.
STRESSED SPOUSE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SPOUSE: I can think of several things you can do: Stop looking at the speedometer, sit in the back seat, close your eyes and pray—or drive yourself.

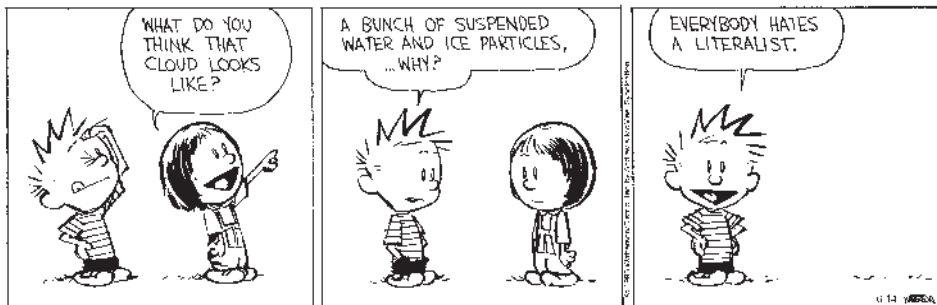
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



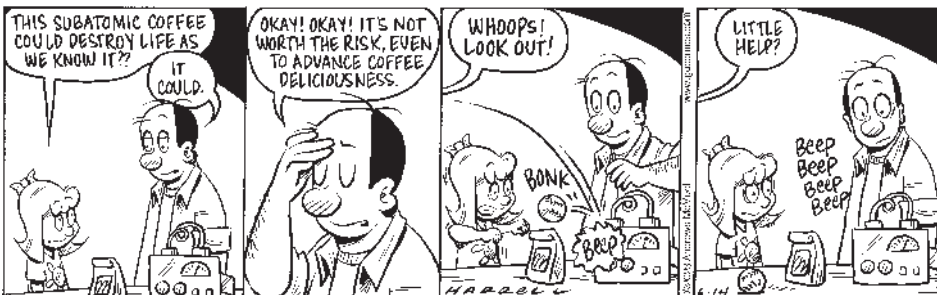
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



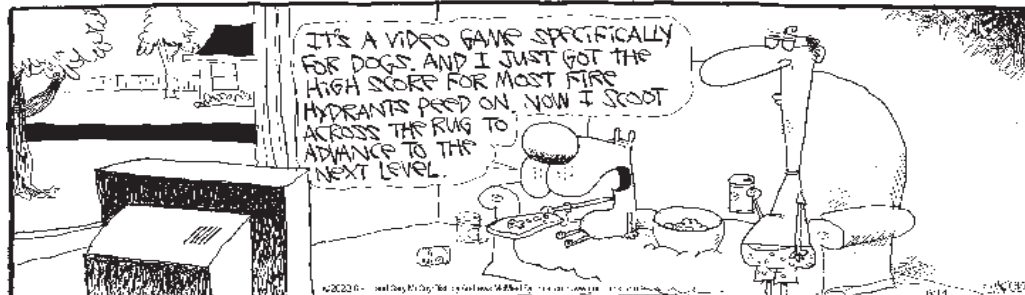
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lobbyists' org.

4 Melancholy

7 Nobelist Walesa

8 Convened

10 Tuscan city

11 NHL team

13 Mimicry

16 Ballot markings

17 Jazz trumpeter Davis

18 Espionage org.

19 Sultry Horne

20 Karate level

21 Molts

23 Boorish

25 New Mexico resort

26 — butter

DOWN

1 Nest noises

2 Teen's woe

3 Enchanted

4 Parisian river

5 World record?

6 Song for two

7 Gimlet

8 Do-re-mi

9 Costs

10 Half dozen

12 Makes dirty

14 Deadly septet

15 — King Cole

19 Guitar master

20 Sheep call

21 Bob of "Full House"

22 Some inside info

23 "Big Brother" host

24 Edits

25 Smidgen

26 Reek

28 Court proceeding

29 Muscat resident

30 Tale tellers

31 Clinton's veep

32 Picnic crasher

34 French 101 verb

35 Not that

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	L	O	G	S	D	A	T	I	C	S
L	I	E	U	E	L	M	R	C	A	S
O	M	N	I	W	O	O	Z	I	E	S
W	O	O	D	R	O	W	E	E	S	
			E	O	N	S	N	O		
W	E	N	D	Y	W	O	O	D	G	U
O	L	E	M	A	N	D	R	E		
W	O	O	F	F	E	R	S	O	P	I
			F	N	S	S	H	E		
S	A	Y	N	O	W	O	C	L	E	N
W	O	O	D	W	A	R	D	O	G	E
I	N	C	E	R	E	A	S	O	A	R
C	E	A	R	I	N	S	I	S	L	A

Yesterday's answer 6-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lucy Hale, 34; Kevin McHale, 35; Diablo Cody, 45; Boy George, 62.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to what's going on around you. It will be easy to misinterpret the information you receive and how others feel about you or your decisions. The more aware you are, the easier it will be to bring about good changes for you and everyone your decisions will affect. Face challenges with optimism and an open mind. Accept and adjust. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 23, 36, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Challenging yourself physically will ease stress and help you sidestep an argument with someone who doesn't see things your way. Concentrate on improving what you can contribute and adding features that attract exciting people and offers. Romance is favored. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Simplify your life instead of overextending yourself emotionally or financially. Discipline will help you reach your goal in a timely fashion. Don't hesitate to ask for help or call in favors. Your success depends on your ability to ask for help. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A lifestyle change will help you deal with situations holding you back. Your happiness is dependent on choosing what's right and best for you. Love is heading your way, and acting on how you feel will lead to progress. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): When asked for help, offer suggestions. Don't take on a burden that doesn't belong to you. Look for alternative ways to use your skills, and you'll discover a unique offer that helps lower

debt. Learn from someone who has experience and inside information. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Redirect your energy to avoid a falling out with someone of consequence. Take a closer look at yourself and concentrate on being your best rather than trying to change others. Getting along and knowing when to say no will solve a pending problem. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Adapt and keep moving forward. Refuse to get into a standoff with someone who challenges you. Consider what makes you happy, and strive to reach the goals you set for yourself. A change of plans will present an unexpected opportunity and an entertaining pastime. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Handling important matters with finesse will positively impact your lifestyle. Make changes at home that lower your overhead. An educational pursuit will give you something to think about, but don't buy into someone else's dream; model your future after your needs. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Channel your energy into something creative. Use your imagination and discipline to bring about opportunity and the ability to adjust to the demands you encounter. Embrace challenges with optimism and use your skills to uncover what makes you feel passionate. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Go the distance and see what you discover. You'll gravitate toward people from different walks of life. Before you let someone mesmerize you, research the validity of the suggestions you receive. Pay attention to physical fitness, eating habits, and overall health and well-being. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got wiggle room regarding your assets and liabilities. Invest more in your future, residence and qualifications. A positive adjustment to your living arrangements will encourage better profits. Don't trust a colleague who fishes for information that might incriminate you. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think before you act. You'll be left out if you try to challenge or change others. Communication will be the key to getting along and coming to terms with what's possible. Love is in the stars, but demands are likely to unfold. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Invest in your skills, experience and ideas. Don't let anyone stifle your dreams; trust and believe in what you want out of life. A positive attitude will garner insight into what others can contribute and what you'll have to do in return. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, energetic and generous. You are engaging and exuberant.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	5		9			1		
	8	9	6	3			4	5
1		4	8				3	
		3			9	8		
4						5		6
6	1							
			7	1	2			
							5	4
								2

Difficulty: ★★★

6/14

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	1	8	4	9	5	2	6
2	9	8	5	7	6	4	3	1
4	6	5	3	1	2	7	9	8
9	2	6	7	5	1	3	8	4
5	1	4	9	8	3	6	7	2
7	8	3	2	6	4	1	5	9
8	4	7	1	2	5	9	6	3
6	3	2	4	9	7	8	1	5
1	5	9	6	3	8	2	4	7

Difficulty: ★★

6/13

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WARNER BROTHERS IS NOW CENTENARY!

Solution: 9 letters

C T S T W I S T E R H O S T S
R A S E I B L A T I G I D E C
E E S I I B U R B A N K N M O
W B T A C D B O O U G T R I D B
O A O T B R O O U G T R I D B
T T R O O L O L H Y R L R Z Y
R M Y R K S P A X E I M O F A Z O
E A T E E S Y N E I M G F A D
T N E K V G O R C S B E L J O
A U L O I O N A R A N L B E A
W C L J L R R I J A C K E R M
I I I E I T M A S N H Y R R A
N N N N O I S I V E L E T Y R
D O G O T H A M N A U J N O D
G S N A M R E P U S E V E N M

© 2013 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

6/14

Albert, Batman, Books, Burbank, Cartoon, Casablanca, Digital, Don Juan, Drama, Exorcist, Film, Friends, Gone, Gotham, Harry Potter, Hobbit, Hosts, Jack, Jazz, Jerry, Joker, Lego, Live, Logo, Looney Tunes, Lord, Melodies, Merrie, Rings, Sam, Scooby Dog, Seven, Singer, Sonic, Storytelling, Superman, Television, Tom, Twister, Water Tower, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Hamburgers

To purchase a WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6460. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Nuggets take home 1st NBA title in rugged 94-89 win over Heat



DENVER (AP)—Confetti flying in Denver. The

Nuggets sharing hugs while passing around the NBA championship trophy.

Those scenes that, for almost a half-century, seemed impossible, then more recently started feeling inevitable, finally turned into reality Monday night.

The Nuggets outlasted the Miami Heat 94-89 in an ugly, frantic Game 5 that did nothing to derail Nikola Jokic, who bailed out his teammates with 28 points and 16 rebounds on a night when nothing else seemed to work.

Jokic became the first player in history to lead the league in points (600), rebounds (269) and assists (190) in a single postseason. Not surprisingly, he won the Bill Russell trophy as the NBA Finals MVP — an award that certainly has more meaning to him than the two overall MVPs he won in 2021 and '22 and the one that escaped him this year.

“We are not in it for ourselves, we are in it for the guy next to us,” Jokic said. “And that’s why this (means) even more.”

Denver’s clincher was a gruesome grind.

Unable to shake the tenacious Heat or their own closing-night jitters, the Nuggets missed 20 of their first 22 3-pointers. They missed seven of their first 13 free throws. They overcame that to take a late seven-point lead, only to see Miami’s Jimmy Butler go off. He scored eight straight points to give the Heat a one-point lead with 2:45 left.

Butler made two free throws with 1:58 remaining to help Miami regain a one-point



Denver Nuggets players, coaches and owners pose with the Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy after their victory over the Miami Heat in Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals, Monday, June 12, 2023, in Denver.

lead. Then, Bruce Brown got an offensive rebound and tip-in to give the Nuggets an edge they wouldn't give up.

Trailing by three with 15 seconds left, Butler jacked up a 3, but missed it. Brown and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made two free throws each down the stretch to clinch the title for Denver.

Butler finished with 21 points.

“Those last three or four minutes felt like a scene out of a movie,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “Two teams in the center of the ring throwing haymaker after haymaker, and it’s not necessarily shot making. It’s the efforts.”

Grueling as it was, the aftermath was something the Nuggets and their fans could all agree was beautiful. There were fireworks exploding outside Ball Arena at the final buzzer. Denver is the home of the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the first time in the franchise's

47 years in the league.

“The fans in this town are unbelievable,” said team owner Stan Kroenke, who also owns the Colorado Avalanche, the team that won its third Stanley Cup last year. “It means a lot to us to get this done.”

The Heat were, as Spoelstra promised, a gritty, tenacious bunch. But their shooting wasn't great, either. Miami shot 34% from the floor and 25% from 3. Until Butler went off, he was 2 for 13 for eight points. Bam Adebayo finished with 20 points.

The Heat, who survived a loss in the play-in tournament and became only the second No. 8 seed to make the finals, insisted they weren't into consolation prizes.

They played like they expected to win, and for a while during this game, which was settled as much by players diving onto the floor as sweet-looking jump shots, it looked

like they would.

The Nuggets, who came in shooting 37.6% from 3 for the series, shot 18% in this one. They committed 14 turnovers.

The tone was set with 2:51 left in the first quarter, when Jokic got his second foul and joined Aaron Gordon on the bench. Jeff Green and Jamal Murray, who finished with 14 points and eight assists on an off night, joined them there, too.

It made the Nuggets tentative on both sides of the court for the rest of the half. Somehow, after shooting 6.7% from 3 — the worst first half in the history of the finals (10-shot minimum) they only trailed by seven.

True to the Nuggets' personality, they kept pressing, came at their opponent in waves and figured out how to win a game that went against their type. Their beautiful game turned into a slugfest, but they figured it out nonetheless.

“What I was most proud

about is, throughout the game, if your offense is not working and your shots are not falling, you have to dig in on the defensive end,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

It felt almost perfect that an unheralded and once-chubby second-round draft pick from Serbia would be the one to lift Denver to the top of a league that, for decades, has been dominated by superstars, first-round draft picks and players who lead the world in sneaker and jersey sales.

Over their near five-decade stay in the league, the Nuggets have been the epitome of a lovable NBA backbencher — at times entertaining, adorned by rainbows on their uniforms and headlined by colorful characters on the floor and bench. But never quite good enough to break through against the biggest stars and better teams to the east, west and south of them.

Before this season, there

were only two teams founded before 1980 — the Nuggets and Clippers — that had never been to an NBA Finals. The Nuggets took their name off that list, then joined San Antonio as the second original ABA team to capture the NBA's biggest prize. The other two ABAers, the Pacers and Nets, have been to the finals but lost.

It was the Joker's blossoming into a do-everything force that made the Nuggets a team to watch. Not everybody did. A shift to winning couldn't change Denver's location on the map — in a weird time zone in flyover territory — and it didn't shift everyone's view of the Nuggets.

Even in Denver.

There's little doubt that this has always been a Broncos-first sort of town. No single Denver victory will outshine the day in 1998 when John Elway broke through and that team's owner, Pat Bowlen, held the Lombardi Trophy high and declared: “This one's for John!”

But this one? It won't take a back seat to much. It's for every Dan (Issel), David (Thompson), Doug (Moe) or Dikembe (Mutombo) who ever came up short or got passed over for a newer, shinier model with more glitter and more stars.

For the first time in 47 seasons, nobody in the NBA shines brighter than the Nuggets.

“You live vicariously through these guys,” said Denver great LaPhonso Ellis, as he pointed to the big scoreboard announcing the Nuggets as champions. “And to see that there, ‘2023 NBA Champions’ here in Denver, that’s so cool, and I’m honored to be a part of it.”

DENVER (AP)—There are no more holes in Nikola Jokic's impressive resume.

Denver's do-it-all center commandeered these play-offs, smashing a 56-year-old playoff record with 10 triple-doubles, and he completed a transcendent two-month stretch by leading the Nuggets past the Miami Heat 94-89 on Monday night in a hard-fought Game 5 to secure the old ABA franchise's first basketball championship.

Jokic had 28 points, 16 rebounds and four assists in the clincher that came 55 years, seven months and 28 days after the Nuggets won the first game in franchise history. Denver struggled shooting the ball against the pesky Heat, missing 23 of 28 shots from 3-point range and 10 of 23 free throws.

“It was ugly and we couldn't make shots. But at the end we figured it out,” Jokic said after hugging all of his jubilant teammates and coaches and

Jokic adds missing piece to impressive resume with NBA title

almost all of his dejected opponents, chasing down some of them as they walked off the court. “I am just happy we won the game.”

The stoic Jokic finally let loose when he greeted his two older brothers, Nemanja and Strahinja—who tossed Nuggets coach Michael Malone in the air—and his wife and toddler daughter in the stands.

Jokic acquiesced the Michael Jordan Trophy to Joel Embiid as the league's MVP this season despite being even more dominant than he was in the two previous seasons when he easily won the award.

He instead walked away with the Bill Russell NBA Finals Most Valuable Player trophy after becoming the first player in league history to lead the playoffs in total points (600), rebounds (269) and assists (190).

Jokic smiled sheepishly as

he held the MVP trophy in his right hand and daughter Ognjena in the other as confetti danced around him.

As the 41st pick in the 2014 draft—which occurred during a Taco Bell commercial, no less—Jokic is the lowest-drafted player to be chosen finals MVP.

“I think it's a great journey. Like you said, 41st pick,” Jokic said, “but that doesn't matter. When you're here, you're a player. The (Heat) have a couple guys that weren't even drafted.”

Throughout the playoffs, Jokic dominated opponents with his array of finger-roll finishes, pull-up jump shots, long-range buzzer-beaters, amazing assists and rebounding prowess at both baskets.

When he wasn't on the court, he was his teammates' biggest supporter, jumping in jubilation as they kept the

Heat at bay when he was in foul trouble in Game 4. On Monday night, he let his emotions show during a third-quarter timeout when he got on his teammates for settling for 3s instead of layups, lapses that led to a 64-60 deficit.

“I didn't slam the chairs, but I like how you make it bigger,” Jokic said. “Yes, I yell at them because we were just shooting 3s, and I think it was like 4-on-3, we could just get an easy layup or score the ball. In that situation, it means a lot. ... Especially it's a low-scoring game, we didn't make shots, they didn't make shots.”

“In that situation, emotions, yes, I yell at them, but I think they're used to it,” Jokic added. “Sometimes I yell at them, sometimes I cheer them, but that's part of the family, part of the team.”

Jokic teamed with Jamal Murray to set the new pick-

and-roll standard this season, Murray's first since tearing an ACL in 2021. They produced the first dual triple-double in NBA history in Game 3 and accomplished something Karl Malone and John Stockton never did in hoisting the gold ball in the finals.

Jokic and Murray became the first duo in league history to each average at least 25 points, five rebounds and five assists in a single postseason.

Jokic has been recognized in basketball circles as the game's most versatile center for several years, but it took Denver's championship run to cement his standing as basketball royalty—and introduce himself to much of the nation.

Malone played the disrespect card earlier in the playoffs, while understanding his team needed to do more than dominate the regular season. Denver was on a mission, led by Jokic.

Denver's big man always shrugged his broad shoulders, even less bothered by criticism than the lack of laurels. So doggedly determined to win a title and with the No. 1 seed in the West secured, Jokic sat out several games toward the end of the regular season to get his body right for the playoffs.

That all but sealed his exclusion to the club of players who've won three consecutive NBA MVP awards, one that includes just Russell, Larry Bird and Wilt Chamberlain—who set the standard with seven triple-doubles in 1967, a record that stood until this year.

But sitting out to rehab his sore calf apparently did wonders for Jokic and the Nuggets in the playoffs.

Asked how he felt to finally be a champion, Jokic said, “It's good. It's good. The job is done. We can go home now.”

Not until after he leads the Nuggets' championship parade on Thursday, though.

McClanahan earns majors-best 10th win, Rays take 2 of 3 from Rangers



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Shane McClanahan became the first 10-game winner in the major leagues and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 7-3 on Sunday, taking two of three games in a match up of the teams with best records in baseball.

McClanahan (10-1) allowed three runs, all in the third inning, and four hits over seven innings. The 26-year-old left-hander retired his final 15 batters.

RED SOX 3, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Kiké Hernández hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and Boston beat New York with the help of a late error by second baseman Gleyber Torres.

Justin Turner homered and Brayan Bello allowed three hits in seven efficient innings for the Red Sox, matching his career high. Last-place Boston (33-33) took two of three at Yankee Stadium in the first series this season between the rivals.

PIRATES 2, METS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen got his 2,000th hit, Jack Suwinski hit his 12th home run and Pittsburgh sent New York to its eighth loss in nine games.

McCutchen became the 291st player and fifth active player to reach 2,000 hits when he laced a slider from Carlos Carrasco (2-3) to left field leading off the first.

ATHLETICS 8, BREWERS 6

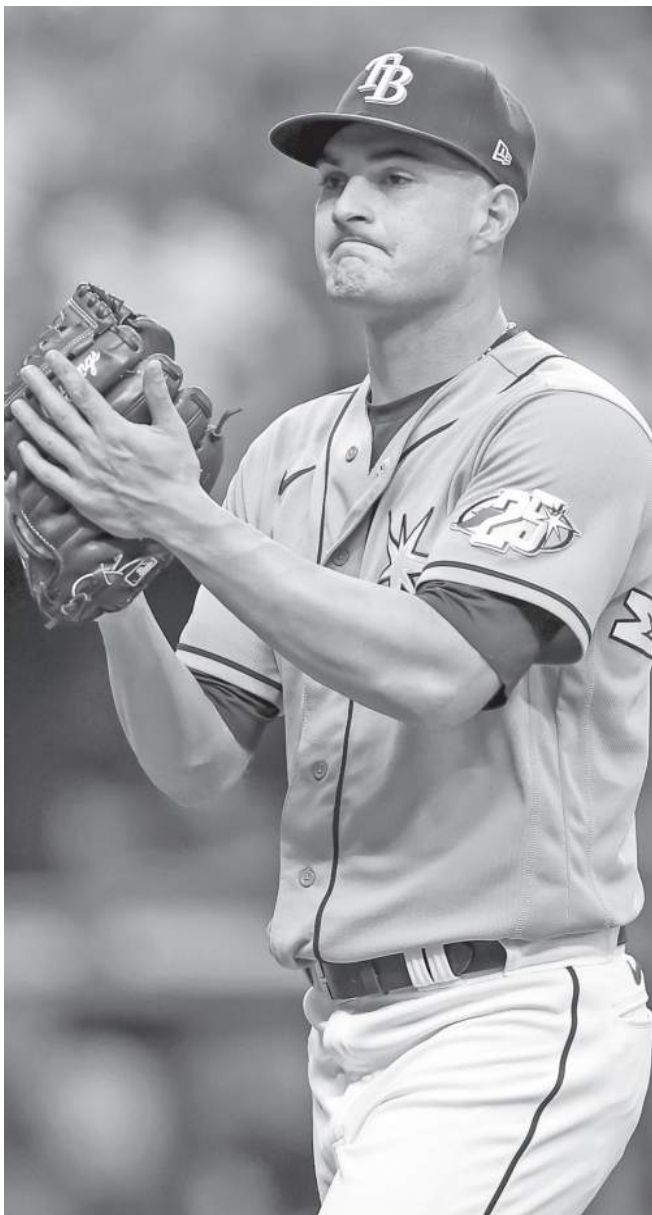
MILWAUKEE (AP)—Seth Brown and Brent Rooker hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning and Oakland completed its first series sweep of the season.

Kevin Smith also homered as the A's erased an early 2-0 deficit and won their fifth straight. This marks the first time they've had five consecutive victories within the same season since September 2021.

ROCKIES 5, PADRES 4

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon hit a tying homer in heavy rain just before a 1-hour, 25-minute delay in the ninth inning and Nolan Jones hit a game-ending 472-foot drive just after the resumption in Colorado's win over San Diego.

Colorado's Coco Montes homered in his major league debut to spoil a strong start by Blake Snell, who struck out a season-high 12 in seven innings. Ezequiel Tovar also went deep for the Rockies. Justin Lawrence's (3-3) pitched an inning of relief and earned the win.



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Shane McClanahan celebrates at the end of the seventh inning against the Texas Rangers in a baseball game, Sunday, June 11, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

NATIONALS 6, BRAVES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Dominic Smith and Jeimer Candelario hit two-run homers in the sixth inning as Washington stopped a six-game skid and Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

Trevor Williams (3-4) allowed two runs, seven hits and one walk in five innings with six strikeouts. Carl Edwards Jr., Kyle Finnegan and Hunter Harvey combined for two-hit relief.

ANGELS 9, MARINERS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Rookie Zach Neto had his first two-homer game, Shohei Ohtani kept up a hot June with three hits and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Matt Thaiss drove in three runs and Taylor Ward also went deep for the Angels, who have won six of seven. Griffin Canning (5-2) won for the third time in four starts, striking out seven in five-plus innings.

ORIOLES 11, ROYALS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson homered for the second consecutive game, and Baltimore completed a series sweep and dealt Kansas City its sixth straight loss.

Starter Kyle Gibson earned his fourth consecutive victory for Baltimore. Ramón Urias had four hits and Ryan O'Hearn homered as part of a three-hit day as the Orioles completed their fourth series sweep.

PHILLIES 7, DODGERS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos homered, Trea Turner had three hits and Philadelphia beat Los Angeles for its seventh win in eight games.

Bryce Harper had two hits, an RBI and reached base all four times as the Phillies took two of three from the Dodgers.

BLUE JAYS 7, TWINS 6

TORONTO (AP)—Cavan Biggio hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning and Toronto overcame a five-run deficit to beat Minnesota and avoid a three-game sweep.

Biggio's fifth homer of the season came off Emilio Pagan (3-1), who began the eighth by giving up singles to Alejandro Kirk and Santiago Espinal.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, TIGERS 5

DETROIT (AP)—Christian Walker hit a go-ahead double off Jason Foley (2-2) with two outs in a four-run ninth inning as NL West-leading Arizona won its fifth straight, completing a three-game sweep that extended the Tigers' losing streak to nine games.

Corbin Carroll closed Arizona to 5-4, and Walker hit an RBI double as left fielder Kerry Carpenter's error allowed the go-ahead run. Gerardo Perdomo followed with a run-scoring single.

GUARDIANS 5, ASTROS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber (5-3) gave up three hits over seven innings nine strikeouts. Trevor Stephan and closer Emmanuel Clase pitched an inning apiece to finish the four-hitter.

Andrés Giménez hit a two-run homer in the second inning off Brandon Bielak (3-3) and Josh Bell added a solo shot in the fourth as the surging Guardians, who have won six of eight and 10 of 16, took a series from Houston for the first time since 2017.

MARLINS 6, WHITE SOX 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run double in a three-run ninth inning as Miami beat Chicago, winning for the eighth time in nine games.

Jorge Soler hit two of Miami's four solo homers. Garrett Cooper and Jean Segura also connected as Miami rallied for victory for the fifth time in seven games and the 20th time this season.

REDS 4, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rookie Elly De La Cruz had two hits, reached base four times and scored the go-ahead run with a headfirst slide on an eighth-inning grounder, helping Cincinnati past St. Louis.

De La Cruz beat out an infield single in the first inning, and tied the score at 2 with an RBI single in the third. After walking in the sixth, he scored on Tyler Stephenson's single, tying the score at 3. In the eighth, he walked against Jordan Hicks (1-4) and moved to third on a groundout and passed ball. With the infield in, Stephenson hit a two-hopper to Paul DeJong, whose throw was slightly up the first-base line and in the dirt. The ball bounced off Contreras' mitt and De La Cruz scored.

GIANTS 13, CUBS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joc Pederson and Thairo Estrada each hit two-run homers and drove in four runs as San Francisco built a six-run lead through five innings and rolled past Chicago.

Blake Sabol added two hits and two RBIs for a Giants offense that banged out 15 hits less than 24 hours after being no-hit for 7 2/3 innings by Chicago's Kyle Hendricks in a 4-0 loss.

Swiatek wins 3rd French Open, 4th Grand Slam



PARIS (AP)—Iga Swiatek suddenly seemed lost in the French Open final. Her strokes were awry. Her confidence was gone. Her big early lead vanished, too.

She kept looking up into the stands, seeking guidance from her coach and her sports psychologist.

So much was amiss right up until she was two games from defeat against unseeded Karolina Muchova on Saturday. And then, when she needed to most, Swiatek transformed back into, well, Swiatek. The No. 1 player in women's tennis for more than a year. The defending champion at Roland Garros. Aggressive. Decisive. Full of clarity.

Swiatek overcame a second-set crisis and a third-set deficit to reel off the last three games, topping Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 to collect a third career championship at the French Open and fourth Grand Slam title.

"It's pretty surreal, everything. But the match was really intense, a lot of ups and downs. Stressful moments and coming back," said Swiatek, now 4-0 in major finals. "So I'm pretty happy that at the end I could be solid in those few last games and finish it."

Looking comfortable as can be at the outset, she raced to a 3-0 lead after just 10 minutes in Court Philippe Chatrier — taking 12 of the initial 15 points — and then was ahead 3-0 in the second set, too, before Muchova made things more intriguing.

"I could see that she was a little bit struggling, a little bit more tense," Muchova said.

Swiatek seemed out of sorts, unable to find the right strokes and unable to figure out why. Players are allowed to communicate with their coaches, but whatever Tomasz Wiktorowski — or sports psychologist Daria Abramowicz — might have been trying to tell Swiatek, either the message wasn't getting through or it wasn't working right away.

"For sure, in second set, I was more looking for some kind of advice," Swiatek explained, "and just a view of what I'm doing wrong sometimes."

Muchova grabbed five of six games on the way to pulling even at a set apiece. She carried that momentum into the deciding set, going ahead by a break twice.

"I came a live, a little bit," Muchova said.

Sure did. And yet that's

when Swiatek returned to her usual brand of crisp, clean tennis, scurrying around the red clay with sublime defense and finding just the occasions to try for a winner.

"I just kind of felt like I need to be more courageous," Swiatek said, "and make some good decisions."

When it ended on a double-fault by Muchova, Swiatek dropped her racket, crouched and covered her face as she cried.

The 22-year-old from Poland has won the French Open twice in a row now, along with her 2020 title there and her triumph at the U.S. Open last September. That makes Swiatek the youngest woman with four Grand Slam trophies since Serena Williams was 20 when she got to that number at the 2002 U.S. Open.

"When she's on a roll, it's tough to break in," said Muchova, who is ranked 43rd and was participating in a championship match at a Slam for the first time.

The contest was filled with sections where Swiatek — the dominant player in women's tennis for more than a year now — was better, and sections where Muchova was.

Every time one woman or

the other seemed to be wrestling control, every time one or the other raised her level enough that the end appeared in sight, the road curved in a different direction.

Swiatek's brilliant beginning meant little.

As did Muchova's edges of 2-0 and 4-3 in the third set.

One point in particular captured the essence of Muchova's unwillingness to count herself out.

Serving for the second set at deuce while ahead 6-5, Muchova pushed to the net and ranged well to her right for a forehand volley. Swiatek then sent her scrambling to the left, and Muchova somehow slid and stretched for a backhand volley while losing her balance. Her racket fell, and so did she, placing her hands on the clay to brace herself.

The ball, somehow, landed in to take the point, and a moment later, when Swiatek's backhand return sailed long, Muchova raised her right fist and let out a yell.

Suddenly, it was a set apiece. Suddenly, the outcome was entirely in doubt.

"I could see that she was a little bit struggling, a little bit more tense," Muchova said.

Undefeated Lady Blue Jays take Game 1

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The undefeated Lady

Blue Jays took the W for Game 1 in the championship round of the women's division in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League playoffs at the DanDan Softball Field last Sunday.

In the sweltering heat, the



LEIGH GASES
In this file photo, Lady Blue Jays' Amy Cabrera eyes the ball before swinging during their playoff game against BDE in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field.

Lady Blue Jays pummeled the Hot Shots with run after run, for a blowout 22-13 game.

The Blue Jays led early with nine runs just in the first two innings, but the Hot Shots replied with six of their own. The top of the lineup for the Hot Shots went into productivity mode as Brittany Luzama, Janica Lizama, and pitcher Janice Celis all had RBI singles.

Rayna Deleon Guerrero from the middle of the Lady

Blue Jays' lineup led off the third inning with a triple and opened up the watergates for more runs from her teammates. Christie Aldan brought her home with a single.

Keolani Rios got on base and was then brought home by another triple from Destiny Pangelinan, who scored on a two RBI home run by Kianu Aldan.

It was the Hot Shots' turn to do some damage as they brought five runs in their at-bat, but at this point the Lady Blue Jays had a four-run lead, 15-11.

The Hot Shots' Brittany Luzama, Ashley Aguon, and Penny Magofna all had RBI singles, while Janica Lizama had a double in the third inning.

Both teams put up goose eggs in the fourth inning and it was still anybody's game, but the Lady Blue Jays found their swings in the fifth inning again and scored four runs. Christie Aldan hit a long triple, while Allannah Sablan brought her home. Keolani Rios reached base right after and was immediately brought home on Destiny Pangelinan's home run.

The Hot Shots—who were hot early on—were doused as they could only conjure up two more runs for the rest of the game. The Lady Blue Jays scored three more runs and won the game with a nine run deficit.

Results of the men's playoffs will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

670 Rollers Basketball Club has new home

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mt. Carmel School Basketball Court is the new home for 670 Rollers Basketball Club.

And to celebrate their relocation, the former Rollers Basketball Association is introducing two new divisions—8-and-under and 10-and-under.

Founder Joe Diaz said, for now, the 8-and-under and 10-and-under age groups are

their youngest divisions. He promised though once they purchase 8-foot portable basketball rims, they will open to younger age groups.



"We're inviting all the age group players to join 670 Rollers.

We just want to make the program for basketball the same as soccer. We started the program with just 10-and-under then we started to see the parents bring their 7-year-olds and 6-year-olds. The board is now working to get the portable 8-foot bas-

ketball rims so we can accept younger age divisions," he said.

As to why 670 Rollers Basketball Club continues to move forward after losing their former home at the Koblerville Basketball Court, Diaz said sports clubs like their's become doubly important when school is out.

"We want to make sure the kids will have all the positive activities like sports this summer break."

670 Rollers Basketball Club has practice pretty much every day of the week.

The 18-and-under team practices from 5:30pm to 7:30pm every Monday. Tuesday from 5pm to 6:30pm is the turn of the 13-and-under team.

The 10-and-under team practices every Wednesday from 5pm to 6:30pm, while Thursday from 5pm to 6:30pm belongs to the 13-and under squad and 6:45pm to 8:15pm to the 16-and-under team.

As for coaches, J.P. Cruz and Diaz handle the 18-and-under

team. Diaz himself holds practices for the 16-and-under and then again tag-teams with T.J. Factor for the 13-and-under. Leo Naraja, Cruz, and Diaz are the coaches for the 10-and-under, while

So far, 670 Rollers Basketball Club has 82 players in its stable—22 in the 18-and-under, 19 in the 16-and-under, 20 in the 13-and-under, 15 in the 10-and-under, and six players in the 8-and-under. Monthly due is only \$20.

Lastly, Diaz thanked the following for their continued support of 670 Rollers Basketball Club: House Speaker Edmond Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Roy Ada (R-Saipan) and Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan). He also thanked Mt. Carmel School business manager John Blanco for allowing them the use of the facilities.

For more information on 670 Rollers Basketball Club, call Diaz at 285-4141 or email him at joediaz41@gmail.com.



MARK RABAGO

670 Rollers Basketball Club founder Joe Diaz, standing fourth from left, poses with some coaches and players of the club at the Mt. Carmel School Basketball Court.

BADMINTON

From Page 20

minutes, the second longest match last Sunday. The men's doubles finals between eventual winners Hsu Ya Ching and Hsu Ya Ching of Chinese-Taipei and South Korea's Lee Yu Lim and Shin Seung Chan was the longest championship game. The Chinese-Taipei closed out the game with a 21-19, 18-21, 22-20 victory after one hour and 18 minutes, which was also the longest in the entire tournament. The first game in the mixed doubles semis match between Japan's Hashiru Shimono and Miku Shigeta and Chinese-Taipei's Wu Guan Xun and Yang Chu Yun last Saturday was the most extended in the competition with the Japanese winning, 27-25.

"These were the kind of games that were never seen before on Saipan. I know they felt the pressure because us, watching and seating on the bleachers were feeling the intensity of every game. To see a 16-year-old playing at that kind of level is such an inspi-

ration for me as a young player trying to improve my skills every game," said Quidato.

Shirley Kim, treasurer of Northern Marianas Badminton Association, which organized the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 and the ongoing TakeCare Saipan International 2023, also joined the gallery of crowd and could not help but react to every good play.

"The long rallies were superb. You could not tell who will fold up or who will win the exchanges. Players move so quickly that I tend to react every time the shuttlecock drops or if someone makes a powerful smash and the opponent misses the return," Kim said.

Saipan Southern High School student Jasmine John was with her classmates and watched games for three days last week and loved every bit of the matches they witnessed.

"It makes you want to be on the court too and play, even though you know you will feel the same high pressure because of how competitive the players are," said John, who played in the NMBA and Public School

System-organized interscholastic league early this year.

"The way they played a fast-paced game makes you want to know how you could be like them and reach that level," said John, who was also at the bleachers last Tuesday afternoon when the second and last leg of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualifying double-header kicked off.

NMBA thanks sponsors, volunteers

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino credited the sponsors and volunteers of the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 for the success of the competition.

"It's a team effort. Everyone involved in the preparations for the event and actual tournament made their significant contributions to ensure that we are able to run a successful tournament and provide our visitors a great experience in their first week of stay in the NMI. The exciting games we witnessed in the first week make us look forward to even higher levels of matches this week as we start the TakeCare Saipan

International," Tolentino said.

The Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 and the TakeCare Saipan International are sponsored by Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, TakeCare IT&E, D&Q, GPPC, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Fanter, Marianas Visitors Authority, Marianas Variety, Saipan Computer Services-Ideal Sign, Hong Ye Construction, Island Apparel, Joeten Motors, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Traders Insurance, Cup BAB, Pacifica Insurance, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, CNMI Department of Fire And Emergency Medical Services, McDonald's, Bridge Capital, Shirley's Coffee Shop, MARPAC, Northern Marianas Sports Association, Pepoy's Restaurant, Sun Palace, Vickie Izuka, Saipan Ice, First Hawaiian Bank, AYD, Transpacific International Inc. Group of Companies, E-Land, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and JET Holdings.

Matches this week will run from 10am to 9am (June 14); 12nn to 9pm (June 15); 1pm to 9pm (June 16); 4pm to 9pm (June 17/semis); and 2pm to 7pm (June 18/finals). (PR)

2ND

From Page 20

Malaysia's Eveshgaran Vagisan lost to Chinese Taipei's Liu Wei Chi in three tough sets, 21-13, 11-21, 20-22.

South Korea's Ga Eun Park won against Ying Tse, 21-13, 21-13.

The NMI's Brian Lubao lost to Chinese-Taipei's Lin

Yu Hsein, 4-21, 5-21.

Catch today's action from 10am to 9pm; tomorrow's games are from 12pm to 9pm; and Friday is from 1pm to 9pm. Semis matches on Saturday will be from 1pm to 9pm, while finals in the men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles are slated for Sunday, June 18, from 12pm to 5pm.

IAKOPO

From Page 20

and everyone of us."

As for 18-year-old Long, this is her second overall title in a row. Long, who returned to Saipan for summer vacation just before Typhoon Mawar reached the Marianas, said that after winning again, "I feel great. It's an honor to be back home and doing the thing I love with people that I love."

About the competition, she said, "This is a sport that I've always loved since high school so it's nice to be on stage and be with the people I knew in high school, and just to be back home with amazing and strong individuals. It was a great competition and the turnout was pretty great too."

For her preparation this time around, she said she didn't prepare as long as she did for the past two competitions, but she said that with her physique now, she "definitely felt more comfortable... I feel like I've grown. I know my areas

around the sport. I know how to prep—I'm familiar with the routines and protocols that you have to endure to do a show like this. So, I feel very proud of myself and the rest of the competitors as well."

In the Mixed Pairs category, father-and-daughter duo, Stanley and Filomenaleonisa, were the only competitors and won the title; Jastine Doria was the lone competitor in the Women's Physique division and won first place; and in the Fitness Pageant category, Eva Weaver won the overall title against three others. Nicolette Martin won first in the short Fitness Pageant category, Le'ana Lizama won second, and Antonette Martin won third.

Sponsors of the event included Megabyte of Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Gold's Gym, Latte Built Gym, Saipan World Resort, Rozelle Printing, Top Notch, Power 99, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Foremost, Island Touch by Philip, and Coca-Cola Beverage Micronesia.



LEIGH GASES

From left, Cielo Long, the overall champion of the Bikini category, and Liekeila'akata Iakopo, pose for a photo during the awarding of the 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships last Saturday evening at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.



**Nuggets take home
1st NBA title in
rugged 94-89 win
over Heat.
PAGE 17**

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Undefeated Lady
Blue Jays take
Game 1.**

PAGE 19



20 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2nd Olympic qualifier underway; Japan wins 5 matches

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The second badminton Olympic qualifier in the CNMI—the TakeCare Saipan International 2023—is underway at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium starting yesterday afternoon.

As of press time, Japan won five of their matches, with a notable win by No. 6 seed Takuma Obayashi in the men's singles.

Obayashi overpowered Chinese-Taipei's Lei Ci Fu in two sets, 21-12, 21-16.

Fu put up a valiant effort in the start of the match, as he was never too far behind Obayashi.

Later in the first set, however, no matter how he tried to dissuade Fu from reaching his strikes, Obayashi made unbelievable acrobatic plays just to make successful returns.

In the second set, Fu was down 13-8, but caught his deficit second wind and closed



LEIGH GASES
No. 6 seed, Japan's Takuma Obayashi, goes for a return during the first set of his match against Chinese-Taipei's Lei Ci Fu in the TakeCare Saipan International 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday afternoon.

the lead by just 2 points, 14-12. However, Obayashi's cat-like reflexes and prowess with his racket ensured his second set win and match victory.

In the women's singles qualification round, Chinese-Taipei's Yuan Chi Liao lost to Japan's Misaki Kurashima, 20-22, 16-21.

In the men's singles Ryoma Muramoto won over India's Shashwat Dalal, 21-14, 21-10.

Hina Osawa won against Chinese-Taipei's Hsieh Chih

Ying, 21-14, 21-17 in the women's singles qualification round.

In the mixed doubles, Shuntaro Mezaki and Hina Osawa won against Guam's Allan Zeng and Kristine Deng, 21-3, 21-4.

In other matches, Chinese-Taipei's Ruo Hsuan Ko lost to South Korea's Ga Ram Kim, 21-10, 21-17.

South Korea's Pyeong Gang Choi won over Australia's Jacob Schueler, 21-6, 21-12.

See 2ND on Page 19

Iakopo, Long are overall champions again

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo is the Figure overall champion and Cielo Long is the overall champion of the Bikini category of the 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships last Saturday evening at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

Iakopo won the Figure overall title against Jastine Doria, while Long took home the Bikini overall title against Liekeila'akata Iakopo.

For 17-year-old Filomenaleonisa, who competed last 2021 and also won the Figure overall championship, she said that all that she went through preparing for this competition was worth it.

How she felt winning this time around, "I feel very

blessed. It was a really hard journey," she said. "I wanted to come back on stage and defend my title and it was really all about myself beating my own physique from last time. I pushed myself with dieting, I cut water which was the hardest part for me. I could say I

did not enjoy my preparation, but it's the results and the discipline. Even if I did not win, it was still a reward in itself, just because of the hard work that you put yourself through, and the growth you put yourself through—that is the reward."

She added, "I'm just extremely thankful. I want to give my thanks to coach Derek Cutting—he is the one who trained my brothers and sister and I. My mother and father who have always supported us, who kept us going, and who always believed in each

See IAKOPO on Page 19

Badminton fans treated to thrilling games



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spectators at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium react after Chinese-Taipei's Hsu Ya Ching and Lin Wan Ching scored match point during their women's doubles finals game against South Korea's Lee Yu Lim and Shin Seung Chan in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 last Sunday.

The Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 delivered as promised with badminton fans treated to exciting matches at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

Three of the five championship matches last Sunday went down-to-the-wire, while the quarterfinals and many semis last Friday and Saturday were also decided in three games. And though there were several other matches that were completed after two games over the weekend, the scores would tell they were still hard-fought ones, as the winning margins were slim. These exciting matches kept spectators on edge of their seat, while many were seen applauding players diving on the match to successfully return the shuttlecock, turning their heads left and right glued on a long rally, and some exchanging high-fives

in approval of players they were rooting for.

Marianas High School student Paolo Quidato, who played in the qualifier in the men's singles and main draw in the doubles (with Daniel Macario), was among the spectators at the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 last weekend and was in awe of the finals matches, specifically the women's singles play between South Korea's Kim Ga Ram and 16-year-old Tomoka Miyazaki. Miyazaki drew first blood to move closer to the women's singles crown, 21-15, but Kim, who had to go through a qualifier to make it to the main draw, rallied and won the next two games to steal the title, 25-23, 21-13.

The women's singles finals lasted for one hour and six

**See BADMINTON
on Page 19**



LEIGH GASES

From left, Filomenaleonisa Iakopo, the Figure overall champion and Jastine Doria pose for a photo during the awarding of the 2023 Dee Clayton Classic and Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championships last Saturday evening at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.